

## **Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (FSAC) Meeting**

Division of Forestry and Wildlife  
Department of Land and Natural Resources, Board Room 132  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
9:00 am, September 24, 2013

**Committee:** Alvin Kyono (Chair), Michael Constantinides, Lance Dunbar, Betsy Gagne, Greg Hendrickson, Nicholas Koch, J.B. Friday, Benton Pang, Rich von Wellsheim

**Staff:** Irene Sprecher, Sheri Mann, Elizabeth Boxler, Jan Pali, Marigold Zoll

**Guests:** Puaonaona Stibbard, Diana Moore, Michael Moore, Dan Purcell, Paul Zweng, Susan Kaye Lundberg, Mona Bernadino

### **Call to Order:**

- Alvin Kyono called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.

### **Meeting Minutes:**

- The following comments were made regarding the prior meeting minutes from the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee (FSAC) meeting on May 10, 2013.

- o Minor grammatical corrections which were given to staff and Ironwood (*Casuarina cunningham*) should be recognized as having invasive tendencies on Kauai.

**Motion to approve the May 10, 2013 FSAC meeting minutes as corrected.** Moved by Member von Wellsheim seconded by Member Gagne. Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Dunbar, Gagne, Hendrickson, Koch, Friday, Pang, von Wellsheim; Oppose: None; Abstain: None.

### **Unanimously approved.**

- Mr. Purcell asked if a Deputy Attorney General would be present at the meeting. Member Gagne mentioned that she is the representative from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee is only advisory. She also mentioned that the Deputy Attorney General is not required to be present.

- Staff Mann informed the FSAC about exciting advances in the biomass industry in Hawaii. She explained that due to the recent fires in Kokee Timber Management Area (KTMA), DOFAW is looking at salvage logging and reforestation within KTMA. This will serve as a model for harvest scenarios in the Waiakea Timber Management Area (WTMA). She expressed her excitement at the idea of biomass production in Hawaii and the potential for a growing forest industry in Hawaii. Member Dunbar asked how many acres were in KTMA and WTMA. Staff Mann said that KTMA is approximately 1,000 acres and WTMA is approximately 12,000 acres. Member von Wellsheim asked if WTMA was all biomass and Staff Mann said that some of WTMA is high quality hardwood.

- Staff Mann also wanted to thank the FSAC Members for their time and that DOFAW appreciates their advice on Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy and other topics.

### **Forest Legacy Program**

### **Project Proposals:**

- Staff Sprecher began by asking the FSAC if they had filled out the Forest Legacy score sheet to provide initial feedback on the projects. She asked for members to revise their score and submit scores following project discussion.
- Member Gagne recused herself due to association with one of the Forest Legacy projects.
- Staff Sprecher clarified that there is no minimum score for Forest Legacy projects at the State level although ideally projects will score well so they are competitive on a national level.

### Ho'omau Ranch, South Kona, Hawaii County:

- Member Friday asked about the zoning of the project. Staff Sprecher clarified that the project primarily has county zoning of Ag-20, and some areas have Ag-5 zoning.
- Staff Sprecher notified the committee that the landowner with the support The Nature Conservancy submitted the project. She also stated that this is the first phase of the planned easement acquisition with a second phase to follow in a later year.
- Member Friday felt that an inset was needed on the map to view the project area although he appreciated being able to see the landscape level conservation. Staff Sprecher clarified where the proposed acquisition would occur but acknowledged that the maps needed improvement.
- Member Friday stated that it did appear to be forested but he was unclear, in the application, if the ranch planned to continue cattle ranching in the proposed conservation easement. Staff Sprecher stated that the ranch will continue rotational grazing. In the past the landowner has occasionally allowed cattle to feed in the forest understory but there is a large portion of ohia forest that they would like to exclude from grazing.
- Member Friday requested for clarification about whether or not they were approving a plan or the concept of a conservation easement. He felt that running cattle under forest is unsustainable but Staff Sprecher expressed that ranching activities were allowed under the Forest Legacy Program through a silvopastoral operation. Member Friday felt that the appropriate management activities would be fencing off the forest to exclude ungulates from the agriculture. Staff Sprecher explained that the Forest Legacy program is a working forest program and that landowners are allowed to generate revenue from the forest - including grazing revenue.
- Member von Wellsheim felt that it would have been helpful for a management plan to be submitted with the application but Staff Sprecher said that Forest Legacy does not require a management plan at this stage in the application and that there is no guarantee of funding for the project, which makes it difficult for the landowner to justify writing a management plan. Staff Sprecher passed out a biological survey, a willing seller letter, and a preliminary title report for the project.
- There was some further discussion between committee members about whether or not cattle grazing would be acceptable in a future management plan. Several members of the committee

disagreed on the subject. Staff Sprecher emphasized that the Forest Legacy easement is preventing the development of the property.

- Member Hendrickson felt that the project would score high in strategic due to the federal investment in Kona Hema and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Overall, he felt that the project would score high at a national level but that knowing the local area it should score lower on threatened, although it reads as more threatened than it is.

- The committee discussed the impact of Hawaiian Estates on the project. Member Hendrickson said that only approximately 10% of the lots have been developed. Members Dunbar and Hendrickson discussed how Hawaii County zoning would impact the threat on the Ranch.

- Member Dunbar felt that the major point was the endangered plants on the property. He felt that the management plan, to be developed after funding award and the conservation easement terms are negotiated, should emphasize this value.

- Member Hendrickson: Which one should be submitted as the number 1 plan? The national review panel will score it again. Even though we talk about it being low threatened it will score well for threatened at the national level. Upstate Maine vs. Hawaii the threat is much higher in Hawaii. Ultimately they have written it well to score at the national level. The second project will need to be re-written.

- Member Friday stated that the area could be converted to macadamia nut or coffee plantation. Member Hendrickson concurred that if macadamia remains economically viable that it could be converted for agriculture. He also mentioned that the Ranch has some historic values not included in the application.

- Member Friday stated that scenic values claimed in the application need to be limited to the areas proposed for protection by the conservation easement. Member Dunbar felt that pictures that highlight the bullets would be helpful.

#### Helemano Wilderness Park, Central Oahu, Honolulu County:

- Member Hendrickson felt that this project was very interesting. He spoke with people involved in the sale of the Dole Company Inc. parcels and felt that there was a high risk of the parcel being acquired by an entity uninterested in maintaining trail access.

- Staff Zoll clarified that the parcel that is under contract is a private entity that wants to create a hunting reserve and that they are not currently in escrow. She felt that should Helemano Wilderness Park be acquired, the State would be in a good position to negotiate access across the parcel.

- Staff Sprecher added that the Trust for Public Lands has been assisting the State with this parcel and another parcel in Waimea that has also been submitted to the Legacy Lands Conservation Program for funding. These two parcels were rated high by DOFAW staff amongst the Dole parcels available for sale. The values at the Helemano Wilderness Park include the potential for an agroforestry, and access to the Ewa Forest Reserve and Poamoho Natural Area

Reserve. The current access agreement could be lost if the parcel is sold and Poamoho is an important watershed area identified by the Governor's Rain Follows the Forest Initiative.

- Member Friday asked what other options existed to secure access to the Ewa Forest Reserve and Poamoho Natural Area Reserve and Staff Zoll explained that they could purchase an easement but that requires a willing seller. She also felt that the area could be a good for recreation and an accessible forest for residents of Oahu.

- Member Friday asked what the canopy cover on the property was and Staff Sprecher stated that it is covered by trees, mostly non-native but with a small number of native trees. Native tree canopy is not a requirement of the Forest Legacy Program.

- Member Constantinides felt that this project had the higher threatened score but both applications rated at the higher end of the medium range. He suggested that the application clarify the products (timber or non-timber) that would be produced on the property, include a clearer statement of intent, strengthen the fish and wildlife section, clarify where the 37 listed species are located, and the unique forests values.

- Member Hendrickson also felt that there were a number of things that could be done to make the project more appealing. The important aspects, in his mind, were the trail and public access. In addition public recreation is considered an important traditional forestry use by the Forest Legacy Program. He also felt that the project was threatened but that economic returns were not clearly defined.

- Member of the Public Zweng asked if access was the important point of the project if an easement would be better. Member Hendrickson replied that if an easement were for sale that would be true but the current right of entry is not in the best interest or place for the new landowner.

- Member Kyono stated that from past experience on Kauai these sorts of access easements, whether condemned or purchased, had to go to court and took a long time. Staff Sprecher reiterated that while access is an important part of the reason to acquire this parcel it could also be a place for people to recreate and be a part of the forest.

- Member von Wellsheim asked if the State could make a financial commitment to fund the agroforestry components of the vision for the parcel. Staff Sprecher stated that we know a demand for this sort of an area exists but the State does not own the parcel and therefore cannot make any financial commitment. Staff Zoll asked if getting letters of support from community groups would be helpful and Member von Wellsheim seemed to believe so.

- Member Friday asked if the State would lease out the parcel and Staff Sprecher said that there has been discussion on a number of options similar to those proposed at the Waimanalo Forest Reserve but no options have been decided on.

- Member Dunbar asked about the policing ability to control access to this new Forest Reserve. Staff acknowledged that was something that would have to be dealt with but items such as the

ATV area could be modeled off of WTMA. Member Dunbar felt that it would be better to close off access if policing would be an issue.

- Staff Zoll indicated that they are also looking at Army Compatible Use Buffer funding for this project and when the Trust for Public Lands spoke to them, this parcel was their second highest priority. Staff Sprecher clarified that if the State buys the property it will not necessarily become Crown land but if it is already Crown land it will remain so.

- Member Constantinides stated that if the intention is for the parcel to become Forest Reserve, that should be stated in the application as it does have some protection under those rules. Staff Sprecher stated that this would be the largest land holding in the Forest Reserve in Ag-1 zoning. Staff Zoll mentioned that they have received a letter of support from one State Representative for the project.

FSAC members submitted their Forest Legacy Scores for each project to staff.

| Ho'omau Ranch          |                           |                          |                           |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| FSAC Member            | Importance                | Threatened               | Strategic                 | Total                     |
| Alvin Kyono            | 20                        | 10                       | 25                        | 55                        |
| Benton Pang            | 25                        | 10                       | 25                        | 60                        |
| Michael Constantinides | 19                        | 15                       | 26                        | 60                        |
| Lance Dunbar           | 25                        | 15                       | 30                        | 70                        |
| Greg Hendrickson       | 23                        | 8                        | 26                        | 57                        |
| Rich von Wellsheim     | 20                        | 10                       | 24                        | 54                        |
| JB Friday              | 25                        | 8                        | 25                        | 58                        |
| Nicholas Koch          | 15                        | 0                        | 20                        | 35                        |
|                        | 172 out of 240 (possible) | 76 out of 160 (possible) | 201 out of 240 (possible) | 449 out of 640 (possible) |

| Helemano Wilderness Park |            |            |           |       |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|
| FSAC Member              | Importance | Threatened | Strategic | Total |
| Alvin Kyono              | 20         | 15         | 25        | 60    |
| Benton Pang              | 13         | 8          | 11        | 32    |
| Michael Constantinides   | 19         | 18         | 26        | 63    |
| Lance Dunbar             | 20         | 15         | 25        | 60    |
| Greg Hendrickson         | 28         | 18         | 25        | 71    |
| Rich von Wellsheim       | 24         | 18         | 23        | 65    |
| JB Friday                | 5          | 10         | 5         | 20    |
| Nicholas Koch            | 30         | 20         | 30        | 80    |

|  |                              |                              |                              |                              |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|  | 159 out of 240<br>(possible) | 122 out of 160<br>(possible) | 170 out of 240<br>(possible) | 451 out of 640<br>(possible) |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|

**Motion for both Ho'omau Ranch and Helemano Wilderness Park to be submitted to the Forest Legacy Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2014 funding.** Moved by Member von Wellsheim; seconded by Member Hendrickson. Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Dunbar, Hendrickson, Koch, Friday, von Wellsheim; Oppose: Pang; Abstain: Gagne. **Motion passed.**

**Motion for Ho'omau Ranch to be ranked as the States priority project and Helemano Wilderness Park to be ranked as the State's second priority project.** Moved by Member Dunbar; seconded by Member Friday. Approve: Kyono, Dunbar, Friday, Pang; Oppose: Constantinides, Hendrickson, Koch, von Wellsheim; Abstain: Gagne. **Motion failed.**

- Member von Wellsheim asked Member Dunbar if he wanted to rank Ho'omau Ranch first because he felt that it would read better at the national level. Member Dunbar felt that the endangered species component was more important and he liked that it was adjacent to areas with similar goals. He also felt a personal connection with it being similar to his own property. He also felt that the map for Helemano Wilderness Park was confusing and he didn't feel that the reasons to prioritize it were important to him. Member Dunbar believed that if the Helemano Wilderness Park project had discussed more issues of native species, watershed recharge, access to improve threatened and endangered species habitat and controlled access that it would have scored higher with him. He did feel that they were both important for different reasons but that in Hawaii threatened and endangered species should be a priority.

- Member Constantinides felt that the vote showed that they were both important for different reasons. He felt that the Ho'omau Ranch exists in a landscape that is already protected and does not necessarily connect to disjointed areas. He also felt that the Helemano Wilderness Park project should get a higher priority since Oahu has not benefited from Forest Legacy Program and the proposal addresses some of the State's issues. He asked if the FSAC needed to vote to prioritize them.

- Staff Sprecher explained that a letter from the Forest Service asked for a ranking from the Forest Stewardship Committee but that this may not be a hard requirement. She explained that the State level ranking does not impact the national ranking but if there was a close score it could impact which one would be funded. Chairperson Kyono asked if the national ranking could go back to the State level scoring.

- Member Hendrickson stated that he tends to favor easement purchases over fee title acquisition because he generally feels that it is a wiser use of the dollar. However, he felt in the case of these two projects the level of importance was similar, the strategic level was very close and the Helemano Wilderness Park was more threatened than the Ho'omau Ranch. He also agreed with Member Constantinides that using the program for a different value, access, than has been typically used in the State will allow for people to see the program more broadly. He also felt that the trail at Poamoho is a strong access point for residents of Oahu. He would like to see twenty applications for the program in future years and the Helemano Wilderness Park project would help expand the view of what Forest Legacy can do in Hawaii.

**Motion for Helemano Wilderness Park to be ranked as the States priority project and Ho'omau Ranch to be ranked as the State's second priority project.** Moved by Member Hendrickson; seconded by Member von Wellsheim. Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Hendrickson, Koch, von Wellsheim; Oppose: Dunbar, Friday, Pang; Abstain: Gagne. **Motion passed.**

### **Forest Stewardship Program**

Chairperson Kyono moved Item 5.2 forward in the agenda to allow projects with landowner representatives to go first.

#### **The Flyway Project, Ewa, Honolulu County:**

- Staff Sprecher introduced the project proposal for a 35 acre project in Ewa, Oahu. She explained that the landowner had a vision of native reforestation; however, after a discussion with Honolulu County they would like to have some agroforestry component. Michael and Diana Moore are the landowners and were present to answer questions.
- Member Koch asked whether the property was under Hawaii Electric Company (HECO) powerlines. Mr. Moore explained that a small portion of the property had electrical line but they are located above the property. Member Koch said that there has been some discussion about HECO helping remove invasive species that fall on powerlines and suggested that the landowner investigate if that would be a possible source of funding.
- Member Friday asked Member Pang how this project would fit into habitat creation for insects. Member Pang said that there is an area near Tripler Hospital that U.S. Fish and Wildlife is working with landowners on to protect native damselfly habitat. Member Gagne was uncertain about how well it would work because of its low elevation but suggested that the landowner speak with the State entomologist. Overall, she liked the idea of addressing bird food and native pollinators.
- Staff Sprecher mentioned that Maui Land and Pineapple Company Forest Stewardship project had discovered yellow-faced bees fly down into their lower elevation restoration site. Member Gagne stated that they have a flight corridor to the mauka portions. Nonetheless she likes the project and would like to get the State entomologist involved.
- Member Friday asked about the zoning on the property. Staff Sprecher explained that there are limited agricultural opportunities for the parcel but it is zoned agriculture; a small portion of the parcel is conservation subzone protection. Member Dunbar asked if the owner was interested in subdividing the property. Mr. Moore explained that they tried after they bought the property with a partner but the County will not allow them to.
- Member Dunbar said that they should check their title to ensure there is no powerline easement over the entire property. He also asked about the goal of ecotourism. Mr. Moore explained that they would like to do ecotourism to have income to support native restoration. The terrain is

limiting which led to the idea of ziplines down to the bottom of the gulch with small hiking trails at the bottom. The idea of the corridors is to clear out invasive species, plant native species which will bring in native animals.

- Member von Wellsheim said that from experience the boundary effect is the hardest to manage so they should consider that as they write their plan. Mr. Moore said that there may be an issue with fencing the stream. Member Dunbar suggested that it might be easier to fence the top of the gulch. Additionally he suggested that the landowners think about the chemicals used for clearing invasive species and seed rain from surrounding invasive species.

- Member Friday suggested that the landowner get letters of support from local schools or non-profits that support the project or would like to volunteer. He suggested that they visit the Kokua Kalihi Valley to get an example of how community involvement can work.

- Member Friday explained that he abstains on landowner votes.

**Motion to accept The Flyway Project Proposal. Moved by Member Dunbar; seconded by Member von Wellsheim.**

- Member Constantinides offered a friendly amendment of a maximum of \$2,500 cost-share for the development of the management plan. Member Dunbar accepted the amendment.

- Member von Wellsheim asked that the landowner address the issues raised during this meeting in the management plan.

Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Dunbar, Gagne, Hendrickson, Koch, Pang, von Wellsheim;  
Oppose: None; Abstain: Friday. **Motion passed.**

**Lundburg Forest Stewardship Management Plan:**

- Member Friday asked that the landowner confirm that the herbicide is approved for the suggested use. He mentioned that Garlon 4 can be used for forestry projects and that soil testing is available at UH is for agricultural crops. He suggested that the application may need to be revised for herbicide application on forestry species. He suggested that Fusilade is good once planting has occurred. He also mentioned that the project will cost approximately \$4300/acre to \$3400/acre not including the fence. Mrs. Lundburg mentioned that the area was previously used for grazing not sugarcane.

- There was discussion about approving the management plan first and then approving cost-share support. The landowner is interested in applying to Forest Stewardship for a portion of the project and Hawaii CREP for the majority of the project. The primarily reason for this split has to do with NRCS cost-share rates for Hawaii CREP being lower than actual cost.

- Member Constantinides asked what the landowner's vision of a traditional agroforestry would be. Ms. Lundburg explained that she envisions beginning with a small project, planting taro and Polynesian food crops in light gaps.

- Member Constantinides suggested that the landowner speak with Dr. Leary at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) about the chemical applications for ginger. He would suggest composting the chips to prevent seed spread. Ms. Lundburg feels that chipping is an important component of the project. Member Dunbar indicated that Ms. Lundburg should be careful using herbicide on water prone areas of the property. Member Dunbar suggested that a slash buster may be a good method for dealing with the guava and to be aware that when the roots decay it will lead to a depression. He also suggested that they remove any *Acacia confusa* on the property. Ms. Lundburg explained that NRCS recommended that they lay chips out and that Milestone does a good job of killing guava. Member von Wellsheim suggested that they cut guava and work with re-sprouts. Ms. Lundburg indicated that they had tried that method and it had not been successful.

- Member Friday mentioned that Ms. Lundburg has participated in the CTAHR's Forestry Extension Forest Stewards program and visited Aileen Yeh's project to see other projects in the same area. Ms. Lundburg indicated that community involvement is very important to her. She has worked with a number of organizations including the Department of Public Safety about involving women coming out of incarceration in the project. Member Gagne suggested that Ms. Lundburg speak with Colleen Cole of the Three Mountain Alliance about the project to make connections with Landscape Initiatives.

- Member Constantinides asked whether they had a conservation plan for the property. Ms. Lundburg indicated that they have been working with Grant Kow, Hawaii CREP Planner, for a conservation plan. In addition, a portion of the road improvement will be funded through NRCS's EQIP program. Staff Sprecher stated that Matt Wung, Waimea NRCS, has been reviewing the proposed Forest Stewardship management plan showing how NRCS and DOFAW can work together on management plans in Hawaii.

**Motion to accept the Lundburg Forest Stewardship management plan with minor technical comments as approved by Staff.** Moved by Member Constantinides; seconded by Member Pang. Approve: Chairperson Kyono, Member Constantinides, Member Dunbar, Member Gagne, Member Hendrickson, Member Koch, Member Pang, and Member von Wellsheim; Oppose: None, and; Abstain: Member Friday. **Motion passed.**

- Staff Sprecher explained that there is an annual budget for the Forest Stewardship Program, approximately \$150,000, to take on new projects. This fiscal year has three projects have been approved for funding: Brookes Forest Stewardship management plan, Saiva Siddhanta Forest Stewardship management plan, and Kaupakuea Orchards Forest Stewardship management plan. For this meeting there are three new projects requesting cost-share funding and there is not enough funding for all projects unless additional funds come into the program. Member Dunbar stated that having good Forest Stewardship management plans should increase funding. Member Friday stated that this is the first time there are more projects then funding is available for the program.

**Motion to approve funding for fencing component of the Lundburg Forest Stewardship management plan.** Moved by Member von Wellsheim; seconded by Member Dunbar.

Discussion:

- Member Dunbar felt that the fencing may be a bit light for the area where the fence will be. He thought that 10 feet fence post spacing is too far apart but soil tests should be done to establish what is required. He felt that when plantings go in pigs will test the fence and it will need to be sturdy.
  
- Staff Sprecher indicated that even if Ms. Lundburg is only approved funding for her fence she will be required to enter into a 10 year project. Therefore Staff encouraged the landowner to include additional activities in future years.
  
- Member Friday felt that going into line items in the budget is beyond the FSAC. He suggested that projects be submitted once a year for funding similar to what NRCS does with EQIP. Member Constantinides clarified that this is done three times a year with a portion of the annual budget. Member Constantinides asked if there was a maximum funding amount per year. Staff Sprecher said that there is nothing limiting funding in the Forest Stewardship Rules but the FSAC has previously set a \$75,000 limit per year.
  
- Member Gagne suggested that at the next Joint Consultation with the Natural Area Reserves System Commission to ask for an increase in the spending cap as well as request an amendment from the Legislature. Staff Sprecher indicated that Staff is asking for a raise to the ceiling. She also indicated that funding the full plan is preferable to picking and choosing practices.
  
- Member von Wellsheim felt that it was appropriate to fund portions of the management plans since the management plan and funding are separate.

Member Constantinides proposed a friendly amendment to support funding of the project in full because he believes that the funding requests will have minor impacts on the Forest Stewardship budget and will leverage the CREP funds. Member von Wellsheim did not accept the friendly amendment.

Approve: Dunbar, Member von Wellsheim; Oppose: Kyono, Constantinides, Gagne, Hendrickson, Koch, Pang; Abstain: Friday. **Motion failed.**

**Motion to approve funding for the Lundburg Forest Stewardship management plan.**

Moved by Member Constantinides; seconded by Member Gagne. Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Dunbar, Gagne, Hendrickson, Koch, Pang, von Wellsheim; Oppose: None; Abstain: Friday. **Motion passed.**

Ka Mahi'ai 'Ihi O Wailea Forest Stewardship Management Plan, Hamakua, Hawaii County:

- Staff Sprecher introduced the Ka Mahi'ai 'Ihi O Wailea management plan located in the Hamakua Region. The project is indirectly associated with the maile production on the adjacent property. The project envisions moving toward a native overstory with an agroforestry system to produce Hawaiian maile. Ms. Mona Bernadino was present to represent the project.

- Member Koch indicated that his employer helped to prepare the proposed management plan so he will not be voting on the project but would be happy to answer questions.
- Ms. Bernadino explained that the project is associated with the Hawaiian Civic Clubs. One of the club members donated the project area. The goal is to plant and grow Hawaiian maile because the majority of maile sold in Hawaii is not Hawaiian maile. The Civic Club has received several grants and began by establishing two greenhouses and a shade house. After growing maile in these environments they have learned that maile is happier outside of pots. The goal is to phase out the greenhouses and create a native forest where the civic club can grow maile for production. Previous plantings in the area have shown that some species were not suited to the site. Therefore, they have switched to the idea of using non-native legumes to establish a canopy and then gradually replacing the canopy with native species.
- Member Constantinides mentioned that on page 8 there was mention of not needing a Safe Harbor Agreement. He felt that it would be beneficial. Member Friday mentioned that Safe Harbors are a process that can take many years to complete and require a lot of effort for the landowner. Member Hendrickson and Member Gagne felt that there was little potential for a take.
- Member Constantinides also mentioned that NRCS does not consider kukui or kamani native. He had concerns about planting these species in a wet area. He also suggested that earpod (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*) might be an option for the legume overstory. He also suggested that they do deep tillage or ripping prior to planting to deal with compaction. Member Constantinides noted that Access Control should be changed to Fencing.
- The committee had a discussion about whether or not irrigation should be included. They felt that the increment for the irrigation costs but it was included for the maile production. Ms. Bernadino said that growing in the area has demonstrated the need to water the plants.
- The FSAC also discussed the maile operation that used to exist at Kealakekua Ranch. Member Hendrickson noted that the maile had grown well in a similar agroforestry system as the one proposed. The production was discontinued when the ranch sold.
- Member Friday asked Ms. Bernadino if any plants had been established in the soil. She indicated that they began in January and switched to natural farming which appears to have better growth rates. The nodes of the plants are better in the beds than in pots.
- Member Friday suggested that *Leucaena leucocephala* be avoided. Overall he liked the structure of the plantings but suggested that narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*), monkeypod (*Albizia saman*), *Sesbania grandiflora* are other options for the legume overstory.
- The FSAC also discussed the restoration in the gulch. Member Friday felt that although the palms are non-native they are keeping the soil protected and they will be difficult to remove. Member Koch mentioned that this area is being addressed because the goal is to establish a native forest on the parcel. Member Friday mentioned that uluhe is difficult to establish. He recommended that they focus on the other area first and then move to the gulch.

- Member Friday also pointed out that he likes the idea but this plan requires you to remove the canopy after a number of years. He suggested that lama and ohe makai may not be happy at the site.

- Member Gagne mentioned that there is some question about whether milo, kou and hau are native. Nonetheless Polynesians introductions are considered an important resource. Mona: Initially thought about the Forest Stewardship Program but have been informed about other options. Member Friday mentioned that they may be able to have 14 – 20 year rotations for milo, kou, and kamani.

- Ms. Bernadino mentioned that she is looking into how she would like to fund the project.

**Motion to approve the Ka Mahi'ai 'Ihi O Wailea Forest Stewardship Management Plan. Moved by Member Gagne; seconded by Member Dunbar.**

- Member Constantinides offered a friendly amendment to include deep tilling as a part of the management plan. Member Gagne accepted the amendment.

Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Dunbar, Gagne, Hendrickson, Pang, von Wellsheim; Oppose: None; Abstain: Friday, Koch. **Motion passed.**

**Motion to approve funding for the Ka Mahi'ai 'Ihi O Wailea Forest Stewardship management plan. Moved by Member Dunbar; seconded by Member Gagne.**

- Member Constantinides proposed to recommend the implementation schedule that includes irrigation. Member Dunbar approved the amendment.

Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Dunbar, Gagne, Hendrickson, Pang, von Wellsheim; Oppose: None; Abstain: Friday, Koch. **Motion passed.**

**Ohulehule Forest Conservancy Forest Stewardship. Management Plan Funding Request:**

- Staff Sprecher explained that the Ohulehule Forest Conservancy Forest Stewardship management plan was approved at a previous meeting and that the landowner is submitting a supplemental funding request for the project at this time. Mr. Paul Zweng was present to represent the project. She also clarified that the supplemental funding request is only for the conservation area of the project. Additionally, there were a number of practices that were above the cost-share rates for the Forest Stewardship Program. For the majority of these items Mr. Zweng has provided three quotes which is a requirement in the Forest Stewardship Handbook.

- The FSAC discussed the Access Road, one of the items with a higher cost share rate. The road is an old, overgrown Jeep trail. Staff Sprecher explained that since the project has a large volunteer and education component the road is important for safety concerns. He has already had one hiker get injured on the property who is suing the landowner for medical costs. The road is going to be dirt but will conform to NRCS guidelines as much as possible. Mr. Zweng indicated

that he is still in negotiations with NRCS about funding some of the practices through their programs.

- Member Koch had some question about the mulching cost. Mr. Zweng explained that the cost will be spread over many acres. They plan to mulch the smaller trees approximately one year after cutting down invasive species.

Member Friday mentioned that Mr. Zweng should consider requiring volunteers to wear hardhats.

- Member Friday asked if the Forest Stewardship Program had ever funded a project for more than \$75,000 per year. Staff Sprecher said not to her knowledge and they did cap similar projects. Member Constantinides did mention that the project averages to \$71,000 over the 10 year period but it is front heavy with two major infrastructure projects. Member Friday felt that deciding how much to fund a year is a DOFAW call and the FSAC should just approve the concept of funding.

- Member Koch asked if there were three quotes for the fence. Mr. Zweng explained that he spoke with Oahu DOFAW staff regarding the bids at the Poamoho Natural Area Reserve and the quote was close to those quotes. Member Koch felt that for the additional cost share it would be worth having additional bids. Staff Sprecher did feel that the fencing cost-share rate, although outside of FSP rates, is fairly typical for watershed partnership projects. Member Friday still requested three bids.

**Motion to approve funding for the Ohulehule Forest Conservancy Forest Stewardship Management Plan. Moved by Member Gagne; seconded by Member von Wellsheim.**

- Member Koch offered a friendly amendment for the landowner to get three bids for the fence. Member Gagne accepted the friendly amendment.
- Member Dunbar suggested a site visit to the project at a future date.

Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Dunbar, Gagne, Hendrickson, Koch, Pang, von Wellsheim;  
Oppose: None; Abstain: Friday. **Motion passed.**

**Mana Gardens Project Proposal, Puna, Hawaii County:**

- Staff Sprecher introduced the Mana Gardens project proposal located in South Puna.
- Member Gagne noted that there is miconia on the property which should be addressed as soon as possible.
- Staff Sprecher noted that HELCO has an easement over the property but they will not be contributing toward the project implementation. The landowner also included additional information about how she would like to begin the process and budget estimates.

- Member Koch noted that the estimated cost-shares are much higher than those allowed under the Forest Stewardship Program. Member Friday said that he had seen the plan but had not had the time to review the estimates. He explained that the guava removal numbers came from another project in Hawaii that may not be translatable to this site. Staff Sprecher reminded the FSAC that the implementation schedule will be ironed out in the management plan but that she asks landowners to go through this exercise to get some idea of what their commitment to the project might be.
- Member von Wellsheim was confused about the ownership of the property. Staff Sprecher explained that Mana Gardens is the LLC that owns the property but she was unsure about the members of the LLC. She also mentioned that she believes that the goal is to restore the area to a native forest. Member Friday explained that he feels that the landowner needs the advice of a professional to complete a management plan.
- Member Koch and Chairperson Kyono felt that the objectives of the project were unclear. Staff Sprecher felt that although her vision may not be clearly articulated the landowner does not want to rule out any options. Member Friday felt that she was interested in agriculture, protecting the native forest, and community involvement.
- Staff Sprecher mentioned that she did submit three bids for management plans ranging from \$5,500 to \$3,500. Member Koch mentioned that his employer was one of the bidders.
- Member Constantinides felt that the number of acres proposed for the project was unclear. He would also like the proposed practice costs to be more reasonable. He felt that if that is a problem for the landowner than she should know that prior to writing a management plan. He also felt that there were a number of technical issues such as claiming that monkeypod was a native species. In general he felt that there as need for a clear proposal with a clear vision for the property.
- Member Friday suggested that it would make sense for the landowner to fence the entire property even if she is just implementing forest practices in currently native forest. Member Constantinides felt that depending on what the landowner's goals for the middle portion of the property, agroforestry for example, that area might also be included in the management plan.
- Member von Wellsheim felt that she should break her vision for the project into two sections. The first section should address the areas that are currently native forest and the second section should be the old cane land.
- Member Pang felt that she should speak with someone from the University of Hawaii Extension service about the native and endangered species in the area if she plans to include them in the proposal.
- Member of the Public Zweng asked whether the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee evaluates the competence of implementation when deciding which projects to fund. Staff Sprecher explained that the idea of the FSP is to provide members of the public access to natural resource professionals to allow them to plan for their property.

- Member Hendrickson felt that the applicant needs professional help to write a plan and focus her idea. He also felt that the cost of creating a management plan is minimal to encourage a landowner who wants to protect the land. He asked if the FSAC would be willing to cost-share a plan that includes a management approach for 50 acres of native forestland.

**Motion to approve the project proposal for the Mana Gardens.** Moved by Member von Wellsheim; seconded by Member Hendrickson. Approve: Hendrickson, von Wellsheim; Oppose: Kyono, Constantinides, Dunbar, Gagne, Pang; Abstain: Friday, Koch. **Motion failed.**

**Motion to request that Mana Gardens revise their project proposal with a forestry professional and clarify the project goals.** Moved by Member Pang; seconded by Member Gagne.

- Specific areas that the FSAC felt needed improvement were the project vision, proposed acreage for the Forest Stewardship Project and where the project will be on the property. Additionally, a more accurate understanding of anticipated costs for project implementation and the program's cost share.

Approve: Kyono, Constantinides, Dunbar, Gagne, Hendrickson, Pang; Oppose: von Wellsheim; Abstain: Friday, Koch. **Motion passed.**

#### Evaluation Criteria:

- Staff member Boxler gave a summary of the evaluation criteria that have been done to date and summarized some of the difficulties in using the evaluation criteria.

- The FSAC asked for staff to draft language to address these issues and link GIS layers necessary to evaluate the criteria. The FSAC also had some discussion about how due diligence for Forest Stewardship Management Plans will occur. One suggestion was to rotate checking claims in the management plan each meeting.

- Member Friday asked if there was a skew toward conservation projects versus economic projects. He also asked if there was skew towards a larger acreage. Member Hendrickson felt that economic components are difficult for us to evaluate because the inputs might be different across plans. He felt that having consistent assumptions across all submitted plans will be essential to allow for these plans to be fairly evaluated.

- Member von Wellsheim also wanted to ensure that the FSAC does not lose the ability to give direct feedback to the landowner. He did see the need to have a way to compare projects objectively.

**Motion to rank Forest Stewardship projects in the following order: Ohulehule Forest Conservancy Forest Stewardship Management Plan, Lundburg Forest Stewardship Management Plan, Ka Mahi'ai 'Ihi O Wailea Forest Stewardship Management Plan.** Moved by Member Pang, seconded by Member Hendrickson.

- Member Koch expressed concern that large projects would be favored over small projects using the draft evaluation criteria. Member Hendrickson felt that the draft evaluation criteria are scored on values rather than acreage but acknowledged that it may be easier for larger projects to have more “values” and therefore favored in times of funding scarcity.
- Staff Sprecher felt that one valuable part of the Forest Stewardship Program is the ability to fund novel projects. She felt that the draft evaluation criterion does not score well on novel ideas such as Ola Honua or Ka Mahi’ai.
- Member Constantinides asked if the projects had been mapped on the Prime Forestland GIS layer. Staff member Boxler said that staff did not evaluate the projects on anything that was not in the management plan. Member Constantinides felt that Susan Kaye Lundburg’s Forest Stewardship Project should have scored higher if that had been done. He felt that the current motion does not have all relevant facts.
- Member Koch felt that having something to use as an evaluation criteria was better than nothing. Member Pang expressed a view that he would have ranked them in the same order as the evaluation criteria.

Approve: Kyono, Gagne, Hendrickson, Koch, Pang, von Wellsheim; Oppose: Constantinides; Abstain: Friday. **Motion passed.**

#### Hawaii-Grown Christmas Tree Market Potential:

- Staff Sprecher informed the committee that a Christmas tree market analysis will be soon be available to the public on the DOFAW Forestry website.

#### Forest Production:

- Member Koch informed the committee that his employer, Forest Solutions Inc., has been approached by a landowner with an approved Forest Stewardship management plan approached them about growing trees for biomass production. He indicated that this will be a reoccurring theme for discussion within the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee. The advantage of these sorts of timber plantations is that pay-backs for these sorts of plans will be within a 10 year time period due to short term rotation.
- Member von Wellsheim stated that many of the species that could be grown on short rotation could be invasive and the FSAC needs to draw a line of no invasive species. Member Constantinides felt that the FSAC could guide landowners/lessees toward non-invasive, acceptable, species.
- Member Koch asked if the FSAC were in favor of a more encompassing discussion on biomass production. General agreement between different FSAC members.

#### Announcements and Travel:

- Staff Sprecher asked if the FSAC would like to have a two day meeting in January allowing for a site visit as well as more discussion on forestry topics. Suggested dates are January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup> but will be confirmed to ensure quorum can be met on those days. Staff Sprecher stated that the two-day meeting will be planned to allow for compliance with the State's Sunshine Law.