

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
Ola Honua Forest Stewardship Project
Kipahulu, Maui
February 11, 2011

11:20am

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Present: JB Friday (Chair), Mike Tulang, Kip Dunbar, Tony Ingersoll (for NRCS), Katie Friday, DayDay Hopkins, Laura Brezinsky, John Henshaw, Betsy Gagne. **Members absent:** Craig Rowland, Lea Hong. **Staff:** Sheri Mann, Irene Sprecher, Lance DeSilva, Glenn Shishido. **Guests:** Rich Von Welsheim, Joan Henshaw, Michelle Watkins

Meeting minutes of September 22, 2010. **Motion to accept the minutes. Moved by Hopkins, seconded by Tulang. Pass unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Joint Forestry MOU

The committee discussed the proposed Joint Forestry MOU between Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). Michelle Watkins from HACD answer questions and provided clarification on the conservation districts role in regards to private land initiatives. HACD is a statewide association/representation for each Soil and Water Conservation District; there are 16 SWCD through out the state. The SWCD are self-governing sub-units of State government whom provide local farms, ranchers, and agricultural producers with an avenue to express resource issues and initiatives in their district. For Hawaii, SWCD are provided administrative and funding support through DLNR; NRCS provides expertise and staffing to the districts; and UH extension office provides additional technical assistance. HACD is overseen by a nominated group from the SWCDs that assist and provide direction for statewide initiatives. NRCS looks to the SWCD to provide direction toward specific resource concerns or initiatives for program funding, as well as to help with completing conservation plans. HACD involvement in the Forestry Initiative MOU will support cooperation with the delivery of forestry assistance to private landowners, encourage multi-partner participation in forestry initiatives, identification of forestry needs on a local and regional bases, collaboration on watershed and landscape planning, increase knowledge of forestry programs with conservation district staff.

The Committee was supportive of HACD involvement with the MOU. HACD will be discussing and hopefully make a decision regarding their participate in the MOU at their March 29, 2011 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Members

There are 7 seats open on the FSAC; for 4 of the seats the term is up and 3 others that have had to step down for a variety of reasons. A call for applications for a Committee seat was sent out.

Staff has been working with 2 of the seats to fill with another representative from that organization, including Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). NRCS has committed to providing a representative on the committee, and FWS has not responded to date. The Committee will fill 5 of the open seats from the application pool and hold a seat for FWS until the next meeting. The Committee received 7 applications and selected the following for the 5 open seats: Alvin Kyono – retired state forester; Katie Friday – U.S. Forest Service; Greg Hendrickson – Kona Soil and Water Conservation District; Rich Von Welsheim - Forest Products Industry; and Koa Kaulukukui - Office of Hawaii Affairs. Four of the member seats will expire in 2013 and 1, Koa Kaulukukui, seat will expire in 2012.

Project Proposals

Brookes FSP project proposal (Hilo) was reviewed by the committee. The committee would like to see additional information included in the proposal on how the applicant will accomplish management work with the landowner living out of state. Additionally, information on where seedling stock will be collected from and associated plans maps should be included during forest stewardship plan development.

Motion to approve the Brookes Forest Stewardship project proposal and invite the applicant to prepare a forest stewardship management plan. Moved by Tulang, seconded by Hopkins. Passed unanimously.

The Kukaiau Koa Forest project proposal (Hamakua) was reviewed by the committee. The committee review the details of this Forest Legacy project during its last meeting where it approved for submission to the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). As FLP requires that awarded projects prepare a forest stewardship management plan, the applicant is interested in beginning the preparation of the management plan. The proposed management practices include fencing, planting, and invasive species removal over 3,830 acres.

Discussion:

- The Kukaiau FSP project proposal was submitted and intended to be reviewed with the Forest Legacy application, however the FSP proposal was not received in time to be considered at the September 2010 meeting.
- The committee had questions regarding the ranch's operations and the intent for the property.
- The committee has already approved the project for the FLP, which requires the preparation of a forest stewardship management plan. The Kukaiau project is within the scope of the Forest Stewardship Program.

Motion to approve the Kukaiau Koa Forest project proposal and invite the applicant to prepare a forest stewardship management plan. Moved by K. Friday, seconded by Dunbar. 7 in favor, 2 apposed. Motion passes.

Existing Forest Stewardship Projects

- Hui Ku Maoli Ola FSP project (O'ahu) is on hold until the lease for the project area is extended with Kamehameha Schools. We are not sure when this project may be activated.

- Waikoloa Dry Forest project's (Waikoloa) fence is 2/3 complete and the last section of the fence is contracted and anticipated to start soon. There has been discuss with the project manager on documenting match for the FSP project so that monies can be spent on the project as described in the plan. The Waikoloa Dry Forest project was initially delayed due to the completion of the chapter 343, HRS required environmental assessment. The project manager and staff are working to catch the project up with its available funding. The project managers are considering utilizing smaller tanks located around the project area for out-plantings instead of the one large tank they had planned on during the development of their management plan. The large tank was recommended in their management plan as an irrigation sources as well as for fire response needs. The project will be discussing need and possible funding support from the community fire departments.

Spatial Analysis Project

The Spatial Analysis Program (SAP) could be improved by updating layers used in SAP with newly identified layers from the Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy (SWARS) or other known sources. Staff along with K. Friday will begin to gather available information for a SAP update.

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

Existing Forest Legacy Projects

- FY12 Kukaiau Koa Forest (Hamakua) application was approved at the regional and national level and is included in the Presidential budget. Until the national budget is approved we will not know if the project will be funded. The project is currently ranked 13th in the nation, which means if the Forest Legacy budget is at or more than \$64million then this project will be funded.
- FY12 McCandless Ranch (Kona) application was not approved at the regional level because there is an already existing conservation easement on one of the three parcels included in the grant request. There was no threat of conversion on that one parcel and as such the project did not receive a high enough score to be forward to the national competition.
- FY10 Kainalu Forest Watershed (Molokai) project is moving along well. The conservation easement language is being reviewed by the landowner, State and federal level. The project is anticipated to be contracting an appraisal by April 2011.
- FY07-08 Kealakekua Heritage Ranch (Kona) project is nearly complete. The federal review of the appraisal was not approved, and the appraiser is working with the review appraiser to revise the appraisal. Staff hopes to close on the project in April or May.

OTHER BUSINESS

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Hawaii Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) has approximately 150 acres enrolled to date. In addition to the restoration funding provided under the program to participants enrolled in the program, DOFAW has also made funding available for reimbursements of due diligence costs associated with conservation easements that further the goals and purpose of the program. For FY10, approximately \$18,000 was provided to eligible

entities for reimbursement of due diligence costs for The Nature Conservancy's conservation easement on the Kukaiau Mauka project and for the Kealakekua Heritage Ranch FLP project. Additional information was recently provided that excluded state agencies from receiving any financial assistance under CREP (previous state agencies could be eligible to receive 50% cost-share on the installation of management practices under the program). Lease or license agreements on public lands are still eligible for enrollment.

Site Visit

The Committee visited the Ola Honua Forest Stewardship project. The Ola Honua project is interested in amending their management plan to more properly address management in the riparian areas of their project.

1:15pm

MEETING CLOSED