

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting
Camp Erdman & Peacock Flats Campground at Mokuleia Forest Reserve
March 20, 2009

10:03am

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Members present: Lea Hong, Kip Dunbar, Betsy Gagne, Laura Brezinsky, DayDay Hopkins, Katie Friday, J.B. Friday. **Members absent:** Mike Tulang, Craig Rowland, Bill Cowern. **Staff:** Sheri Mann, M. Irene Sprecher, Ron Cannarella.

A nomination was made for J. Friday to chair this meeting. **Motion for J. Friday to chair this Committee meeting. Moved by Dunbar, seconded by Hopkins. Pass unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting minutes October 17, 2008. **Motion to accept the minutes. Moved by J. Friday, seconded by Hopkins. Pass unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

State Funding

At present the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) budget includes funding to support all current FSP contracts. Additionally included, are funding for three stewards/management plans (Schirman, Waikalua, Lindelow) that were previously approved by this Committee. However, we have been advised that no new projects will be funded at present or until further notice. The Committee can continue to review and approve proposals and management plans and may want to consider placing them on a wait list in the event future funding becomes available. The FSP function is still to provide an expert peer review forum and ranking process for long term forest management plans; and applicants may be able to access other Farm Bill related programs (eg: EQIP) based approved Forest Stewardship management plan. The Farm Bill ties the USDA Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the State Forester together on many of the Farm Bill programs. Thus the program is still accepting proposals and management plans from interested landowners and operators. The State is working toward a cooperative agreement it a Technical Service Provider (TSP) for NRCS that will enable landowners to utilize the State's expertise where appropriate.

State Wide Assessment and Resource Strategy (SWARS)

- Presentation and materials ore information about what was presented during the meeting is available on the related website: Hawaii.stateassessment.info
- An example for how to structure the SWARS was given from Texas and Oklahome. The Farm Bill rules calls for certain items to be addressed (threats, benefits, etc) but there is some flexibility for States to focus on their specific environmental issues, to allow for locally driven concerns. Division of Forestry and Wildlife is seeking help from various in the UH system, the Urban and Community Forestry Committee and the State Technical Committee (NRCS) with assistance. The Nature

Conservancy (TNC) and the Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) program have offered to help gather biodiversity information. The Division of Aquatic Resources will assist with stream related items.

- The FSP Committee is required under the Farm Bill to be a part of the SWARS process and are asked to begin thinking about the major topics for Hawaii and the format/lay-out of the document. DOFAW will provide the Committee with a general outline to review, add to, etc. Committee members are encouraged to check the website (hawaii.stateassessment.info) and keep up with blogs and sign up to receive emails notifying recent feedback. Ideally the Assessment section of the SWARS will be well underway by the Hawaii Conservation Conference in late July. Ideas to tie the document together include mauka to makai, incorporating industries that rely on Hawaii's resources (eg: tourism), and water as a central focus. Potential issues/values: watershed, biodiversity, urban values, tourism/recreation, production/economic, cultural/education. Potential threats: fire, invasive, ungulates to be involved in each of the issues/values.
- This process does not necessarily want to create new data but wants to look at current or coming soon information and acknowledge where information is lacking. It may also package existing data in a different, thus be new but not entirely. NOAA has old and new aerial imagery, impervious surfaces, and habitat conservation planning tools available to share that will be incorporated into SWARS information.
- The DOFAW Management Guidelines for Oahu are completed and includes updated and new GIS layers related to (1) conservation values; (2) vegetation class; (3) hunting; (4) forest products; (5) recreation. This process will continue to move across the state to the other districts and will be incorporated as appropriate into the SWARS.

Forest Stewardship Program

FSP Proposal and Management Plan Evaluation Process

- The Committee would like to include the completed Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) as one part of evaluation criteria and to include additional items into evaluation of proposals and management plans. Committee should look to the SAP as a tool for outreach, to seek applicants and plans in particular areas of high need. Once funding becomes available the FSP will be able to fund new projects and the Committee will need a way to determine which projects to fund?
- A Subcommittee was formed to begin work on evaluation criteria. Once the Subcommittee has draft criteria, staff will review old management plans to seek how they would rank. Evaluation Criteria Subcommittee members include K. Friday, J. Friday, B. Gagne, and L. Bresinky.

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee member applications

- Seven applications were considered for three available seats on the FSP Committee. Applicants included John Henshaw; Rich von Wellsheim; Tai Lake; Tyler Jones; David Clausnitzer; Tanya Rubenstein; Mike Kimball.
- An application was received from Nelson Ayers as an employee of DOFAW. This application was set aside from ranking but it was decided subsequently that Nelson will replace the existing DOFAW Ex-Officio seat, Betsy Gagne, on January 1, 2010.
- The Committee would like to fill positions that are otherwise missing from Committee list of representatives. Representatives to fill at this time, to the extent practicable include: NRCS, Forestry Consultant, Environmental Organization, Cultural practitioner, and island representation missing Maui and Lanai.
- Voting was conducted via secret votes for the three position.

- DOFAW Administrator to provide for final approval of filled positions

Motion to recommend to the DOFAW Administrator John Henshaw, David Clausnitzer, and Tanya Rubenstein to fill the three available positions on the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee. Moved by Gagne, seconded by Dunbar. Pass unanimously.

Term lengths for Committee positions will be as followed and will begin at the annual meeting each year:

Term ends June 2010

- Lea Hong, Trust for Public Lands
- Bill Cowern, Hawaiian Mahogany Co., Inc.
- Michael Tulang, Private landowner/Soil and Water Conservation District
- Katie Friday, U.S. Forest Service

Term ends June 2011

- Craig Rowland, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Margarita 'Dayday' Hopkins, Hawaii County
- Laura Brezinsky, Private landowner/Hawaii Community College
- J.B. Friday, UH CTAHR Extension Forester

Term end June 2012

- Kip Dunbar, Private landowner
- John Henshaw, The Nature Conservancy
- David Clausnitzer, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Tanya Rubenstein, Tri-Mountain Watershed Alliance

Ex-officio Member (State) No Set Term Length

- Betsy Gagne, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, will be replaced by **Nelson Ayers 1/1/2010**

Motion to elect Chairperson and Chair-elect at upcoming annual meeting. Moved by Dunbar, seconded by K. Friday. Pass unanimously.

Existing Stewardship Updates

- Conant FSP project is currently waiting on information from the landowner to finalize the agreement.
- Hui Ku Maoli Ola FSP project, Waikoloa Dry Forest Recovery Project, and Ahu Lani Sanctuary FSP project are all waiting on approval from the Governor's Budget and Finance Office. Committee members are interested in sending a letter of inquiry regarding the status of the FSP contracts.
- J. Friday provided for an update on Umikoa FSP project and showed images of their progress.

The next Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee to be schedule.