

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting

Division of Forestry & Wildlife

Makiki Baseyard Hawaii 96766

October 29, 2012 - 9:00 am

Present: Michael Constantinides, Mark White, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Koa Kaulukukui, Benton Pang, Nicholas Koch, Laura Brezinsky, Alvin Kyono, Katie Friday, Greg Hendrickson, Kip Dunbar, **Guests:** Pat Tummons, Lauren Armstrong – Townscape Inc., Bruce Tsuchida – Townscape, Inc., Paul Zweng - Ohuluehlu Forest Conservancy LLC. **Staff:** Irene Sprecher, Sheri Mann, Hannah Bergemann, Paul Conry (partially)

1. Meeting Schedule Overview and Introductions

2. Review and approval of May 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve Forest Stewardship Meeting minutes from May 11, 2012. Moved by Alvin Kyono, seconded by Betsy Gagne. Unanimously approved. Motion Passed

Forest Legacy Program (FLP):

McCandless Ranch

The Committee reviewed the FY14 Grant Application for the McCandless Ranch Forest Sanctuary. Staff has asked the committee to provide scoring on the different sections of the proposal to assist in improving the application. Proposal scoring and suggestions will be emailed to staff directly.

Discussion of Committee members:

- The McCandless Ranch Map needs improvement, particularly in describing which parcel is targeted in this proposal. It is suggested that scale is adjusted and elevation is addressed in the map.
- The bullets relating to value need to address the size of parcels, and there should be more parcel-related descriptions.
- It is assumed that the Ranch will provide the 25% match via a land value donation. This needs to be specified.
- Provide Bold or Font change at the beginning of each bullet to distinguish it because it is difficult to read. The FLP proposal application does not allow changes or modifications to formatting.
- Litigation issues are continuing and mention of them should be clarified in this proposal.
- It is our understanding that the Ranch is not interested in extensive public access. However, if they are currently providing some access it should be described in this proposal, but we think all that the only public access allowed is for hunting.
- There is mention of the S. Kona Forest Conservation Area but this could use more description.
- The projected financial value seems high given recent appraisal values. However, the Committee recognizes that another appraisal may not be financially feasible for the landowner.
- The Kona Soil and Water District as well as the State of Hawaii are mentioned in the list of supporting parties. There was some question about whether it was appropriate to include them on this list.

Motion to approve this application provided the State will incorporate the comments of the committee. Moved by Koa Kaulukukui, seconded by Alvin Kyono. Unanimously approved.

Project Updates:

FY10 Kainalu Forest Watershed: This project is still moving forward.

Discussion: In regards to harvest: a small amount of harvesting is allowed in the least restrictive zone of the project, but primarily for the purpose of maintenance. Harvest is defined by the selling of the product rather than how many trees are cut. However, if any future harvest is expected, the committee should see and review a harvest management plan.

FY12 Kukaiau Koa Forest: All is moving forward with this project, despite the land being for sale. No conservation easement has been completed or approved. A management plan is not yet complete, although the State has reviewed a draft plan.

FY13 Ka'awaloa Hawaiian Forest: This project ranked well at the federal level ; however, because the federal budget is not done it is not known if this project will be funded.

Kealakekua Heritage Ranch: Last January the State did its annual monitoring to ensure that this project is staying within the CE guidelines. The State conducts aerial monitoring several times a year, and will be monitoring this site again in early 2012.

Adjourn meeting for a 15 minute break at 10:11am.

Meeting reconvened at 10:26am.

Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) Project Proposals

Lundberg Project Proposal: Information is provide for the committee; staff has not yet visited this site.

Discussion:

- Some of the costs, including the fence estimate and the strawberry guava control and removal, seem low. One suggestion was for a better description of the type of fence that will be used by the project.
- Another question posed by the group was what, of old growth ohia, was based on.
- A better map is needed. Staff is unsure if the NRCS aerial map is indicative of the current ground conditions.
- The Committee suggests that a permitted action group is created to address cost-share rates for future management plans.

Motion to approve the project proposal and recommend the development of a Forest Stewardship management plan. The cost-share funding for the project to be determined by staff based on three quotes for the development of the plan. Moved by Katie Friday, seconded by Kip Dunbar. Unanimously approved.

Ka Mahi'ai 'Ihi O Wailea Project Proposal: The Committee reviewed the project proposal and information provided by staff.

Discussion:

- The current lease for their land ends in 2014. They are currently discussing extending the project and the landowner is in favor of this. Until this approval has been expressed officially, the project is technically not eligible for FSP funds.

- The Committee would like some additional information on the grant award of \$2 million that the project has previously received. If previous plans have failed, the Committee may not want to fund the project. Staff has indicated that some previous funds were used for infrastructure development relating to their nursery business plans.

- The project proposal indicates that 9,000 trees have been planted. The Committee requests descriptions of the trees including species, where they were planted, and how this was accomplished.

- Land ownership is unclear. This needs to be specified before the project can be determined to be eligible.

Motion to deny the Ka Mahi'ai 'Ihi O Wailea project proposal. Moved by Katie Friday, seconded by Laura Brezinsky.

Opposed: Betsy Gagne, Nick Koch, Greg Hendrickson, Mark White, Benton Pang, Kip Dunbar, Koa Kaulukukui, Rich von Wellsheim. Abstain: Alvin Kyono and Michael Constantinides. Motion failed.

Further Discussion:

- The Committee needs more information before a decision can be made. Such information includes identification of the landowner, details of the 9,000 planted trees, and details on how previous funds have been used.

Motion to defer voting on the Ka Mahi'ai 'Ihi O Wailea Project Proposal until the applicant has provided the requested information. Moved by Kip Dunbar, seconded by Koa Kaulukukui.

**In favor: Michael Constantinides, Mark White, Betsy Gagne, Rich von Wellsheim, Koa Kaulukukui, Benton Pang, Nick Koch, Alvin Kyono, Katie Friday, Greg Hendrickson
Opposed: Laura Brezinsky. Motion passed.**

Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) Management Plans

Ohulehule Forest Conservancy, LLC: The Committee is being asked to approve the submitted management plan. This would allow staff to pay for a portion of the cost for the plan. Currently, the landowner is not asking for cost-sharing funds for plan implementation. At the last meeting, the Committee approved the project proposal and recommended the development of a Forest Stewardship management plan. Based on the quotes submitted to staff the cost-share rate offered for this project will be \$5,000. The landowner, Paul Zwang, is present at the meeting and willing to respond to questions.

Discussion:

- The project plan mentions that volunteers are necessary for the success of the project but how these volunteers will be supported is not mentioned in the plan. The project does not have an operational history because the landowner does not currently have the necessary permits. He feels it would be presumptuous for them to go out and get the volunteer labor force without the necessary permits. While the landowner indicates that they will work very hard to achieve the manpower necessary, he wants to be explicit and honest about possible limitations to the success of this project. He is familiar with volunteer groups such as Kupu and the Boy Scouts. Because the plan is not currently asking for funds, letters of commitment are not included.

- The landowner says that discussions with Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and consultants have taken place regarding future road construction in the Conservation District. They are trying to get a better understanding of how to best build roads. Their

conservation district use application (CDUA) has been submitted and is being routed within DLNR.

- The Ohulehule Forest Conservancy is a member of the Ko'olau Watershed Partnership.
- Regarding the agroforestry section of the plan: the ridge top soil fertility and exposure may be something to consider with cacao. Using organic soil is a laudable objective but it is recommended that a trial for inorganic material is completed. In addition, using koa for windbreak and shading at 25x25ft may result in a higher shade rate than what is desired. Kukui is another option for windbreak and shading; it has faster growth, provides more moisture and more filtered light. Digging holes by auger for the cacao can glaze the sides of the hole and create difficulty in plant rooting. Cacao spacing on contours – sometimes doing double rows on 5 to 6 ft spacing with a wider alley in between helps create natural terrace establishment especially if you utilize the pruned material underneath.
- Fence posts should be about 7 to 8 ft apart, and the wood posts may rot.
- The plan discusses trapping of pigs as a part of ungulate control. However, pigs should not be released into other areas.
- James Leary was consulted on the herbicide to be used on the project in May, 2012.
- Page 68 of the plan mentions leaving out piles of weeded vegetation that has been controlled. This should be avoided because the weeds may not properly dry out and could sprout if left alone. Also, successfully using a checkerboard protocol may be difficult given the strawberry guava regeneration rates. It is suggested to instead do a boundary front that moves back.
- The Committee suggests that the landowner engages in community discussions before implementing his project. The landowner has already begun to meet with some of the local community groups.
- Overall, the Committee found the project plan to be very well-done and professional.

Motion to approve the Ohulehule Forest Conservancy Management Plan. Moved by Benton Pang, seconded by Kip Dunbar. Unanimously approved.

Adjourn meeting for a lunch break at 11:45 am
Reconvene at 12:53pm

FSAC Permitted Interaction Group

The Committee reviewed the work done by the permitted interaction group as approved at the January 21, 2012 meeting. The permitted interaction group proposed recommendations for consideration by the Committee.

Revisions to the FSP Handbook mgmt plan template – Some practice names changed to coincide directly with practice names used by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). There are a few new practices; some practices were combined; and in some cases names were left the same. There was some discussion about the differences between Site Prep, Tree and Shrub Establishment, mulching, soil amendments, and irrigation. All of these practices are allowable individually but all are not always necessary. A review of each change in the Handbook was discussed by the Committee.

Review and recommendations on updates to allowed program cost-share rates – The Committee reviewed the proposed rates as submitted. There should be some consideration for an

inflationary cost per practice, because it can be difficult to update state cost-share agreements with new rates. There is a monitoring and maintenance practice now that may help account for this.

Review of the Forest Stewardship Administrative Rules – A copy of the revised FS Administrative Rules will be presented to the committee at the next meeting.

Revision of the Forest Stewardship Program evaluation criteria –

Discussion-

- It would be helpful to remove the middle yellow % column to make some changes to the weighted score column.
- “Prime Forest” – should be changed to “Site Potential”.
- If a project has zero site potential or zero natives then their score should be 0 instead of 1.

Joint Forestry Memorandum of Understanding – Deferred until the next committee meeting.

Forest Stewards Program – Deferred until the next meeting of the FS Committee.

Update on Forest Stewardship projects and developing management plans – Deferred until the next meeting of the FS Committee.

Hawaii CREP Annual Report – Deferred until the next meeting of the FS Committee.

Green Energy Species Selection list – Staff sent out a list of species to the Committee and many other experts trying to get opinions about whether or not these species are ok for Green Energy to plant. Comments on the list can be sent directly to staff.

Next meeting - February 15, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm