

Research & Technology Working Group -- July 23, 2008

Minutes and approved

Chris: 8 percent restriction on general funds; 1 million dollars in general funds., 80K restriction. Support staff is grants manager and Chris' salary. Central Services fee 7% on Special Funds (4 million). Paul Conry will charge 3% overhead.

Last year Research and Tech had given out 700k in research grants. Response and Control budget not decided. Outreach has met. (This is all review of table that Chris passed out.) WNV going back to old levels of funding—previous year funding. All of this will be decided after all working groups meet, then resources working group—made up of chairs of other working groups will negotiate a balanced budget.

Rachel asked to explain the 3%--Chris says it's taken off the top of the \$4 million except for what will go directly to other state agencies.

Last year funded 15? Proposals.

Chris: Think this year R&T will be impacted because of other groups might want more money this year and its mission is general,. So there is a risk it will be raided.

Neil: when will that decision be made.

Chris: At resources working group.

Darryl, are there dates set for prevention and resources?

Chris, no date yet for prevention. Resources working group has to meet after all the others have, hoping everything will be done by mid-August.

Chris D. Results of research can be difficult to see because takes awhile to see the results. Need good arguments to present at the resources working group.

Chris B. Over the years there have been 1.? Million dollars—half have had real benefits and ½ have had fringe benefits. Some of them provided good support information but weren't really a benefit for management. One way to get around general relevance, would be to come up with some good ideas for RFPs like last year there was a coqui one. Good thing about a general one is that we can encourage people to come up with something.

Neil: How did it work last year

Chris B. 45 proposals., honestly the coqui proposals were pretty shoddy.

Fred: Biocontrol got a lot and marine got a lot of attention because its so information poor.

Chris D. IS there someway to revise the guidelines? What are some of the measurable tangible benefits? We had 700 K last year. With this budget cutting we may not be able to expect that again this year. Issue now is do we want specific requests or an open RFP.

Chris B. We can, but we have two proposals before us now.

Neil: Will there also be an RFP?

Chris B. Might not be necessary to have an RFP if the council agrees.

Neil: there is a transparency issue. Other people might be under the impression that they didn't have a chance.

Chris B. If agency think this proposal will support their work, the council can decide how to spend its money. Other areas of work aren't done through an RFP, so this would be new but similar to the ways we've done other things>?

Shahin: Is this something you are still deciding?

Neil: Might be proposals that are really useful, not going for an RFP might limit opportunities.

Chris D. Can we make that decision now? Or do we have to wait till resources working group meets?

Chris B. I know there is more demand for funds than what's here (sheet).

Chris B. A combination of the two would be good.

Fred Kraus presented Bishop's proposal to the group. (see write up)

Questions:

Darcy: which extant database are you planning to use as a start?

Fred: Checklists, maybe HDOA's database, OED stuff, HDOA's insect collection.

Darcy: HDOA has records that don't meet HBS standards

Fred: Don't want this database to be restricted, want to take public reports.

Darcy: If HDOA says its here and established; is that good enough?

Fred: Personal communication would be explicitly noted; won't have to be published etc. Want to be able to track things in real time.

Neil: Would be an improvement over the checklist.

Darcy: Would like to have some say whether or not information is correct. There are errors in the checklist. Some entries say that they were picked up in quarantine when they weren't.

Fred: Benefit to this is that it will have broad public benefit.

Chris B. There would be a need to solicit contributions and go after people's data.

Fred: You'll get lots of people contributing once its up.

Chris D. With the proliferation of databases proliferating what is the proof of concept.

Fred: Proof of concept is not the database, but that it will impact management.

Chris D. There are other invasive species databases out there, how can something like this plug into something larger.

Chris B. PBIN that is cooperating; they are looking to partner and get information from all over the country.

Fred: Specifically concerned with what's happening in hotel.

Neil: are you planning on including plant pathogens?

Fred: It would be nice, but we don't have the expertise for that for Bishop.

Darcy: HDOA and UH have records, lots of arguments about what is established and what isn't. Will be contentious as to whether its established.

Fred: Ideally, I'd like to include it. Logistically a little more difficult. Down the line for sure.

Shahin: How will you get the info?

Fred: Has to be some vetting, general public might have to send in a voucher.

Darcy: can rely on partner agencies that have ID expertise.

Rachel: Will the database designate plants that are invasive?

Fred: NO, the information will be there and managers can decide for themselves.

Darcy's proposal—see written sheet.

Chris D. What will the increased capacity look like?

Darcy: Will have a target list and we'll know what other agencies have done with that pest. Will be able to communicate the information and begin building capacity within the island nations in order to get biocontrols out the door.

Chris D. Sounds like we need another working group. Neither of these proposals fit neatly within research.

Chris B. The database proposal is technology. HDOAs proposal is for collaboration on biocontrol research on shared weeds. Collaboration could shorten time it takes to find a biocontrol—and will be cheaper.

Discussion of communication barriers between “big nations” and Pacific Island Nations.

Announcements: CGAPS meeting Monday Rm 5-208 and OISC General Meeting Aug 13<sup>th</sup>. 9-12 at Bishop.