

GAME MANAGEMNET ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: October 12 17, 2017

TIME: 10:00 PM

PLACE: DLNR Board Room 132, Kalanimoku Building, 1151 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu.

PURPOSE: Game Management Advisory Commission organizational meeting (#3)

DRAFT MINUTES

ITEM 1. Call to order, introductions of members, staff, and visitors; request for move-ups on the agenda.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Jon Sabati – West Hawaii (Chair)
Josiah Jury – Oahu
Stan Ruidas – Lanai
Robert Cremer – Kauai
Nancy Timko – Oahu
David Smith – Forestry and Wildlife
Lori Buchanan – Molokai

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Ryan Kohatsu – East-Hawaii
Jefferey DeRego – Maui

STAFF:

Jason Omick – DOFAW
Shaya Honarvar – DOFAW
James Cogswell – DOFAW
Shane DeMattos – DOFAW
Lindsey Ibara – DOFAW
Jason Misaki – DOFAW
John Medeiros – DOFAW
Ryan Peralta – DOFAW
Joey Mello – DOFAW
Andrew Choy – Hunter Education Program

VISITORS:

Melissa Price – UH Manoa
Derek Risch – UH Manoa
Cathrine Cadiente – SHOH
Randy Kepuhina

ITEM 2. Approval of minutes from June 19, 2017 GMAC meeting.

Comm. Buchanan: Do we have a motion from the floor for approval or amendments to the minutes of the June 19 GMAC meeting?

Comm. Jury: I move to approve the minutes of the June 19 meeting.

Comm. Timko: I'll second.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, we have a second. Any discussion? No discussion. All those in favor of approval of the minutes of June 19, 2017, raise your right hand. Any abstentions?
All raised their hand except commissioner David Smith who abstained. He was not at the June 19th meeting.

June 19 2017 minutes are approved.

It was requested to move Item 4 before Item 3 and there were no objections.

ITEM 4. Follow up discussion regarding the letter submitted by GMAC to BLNR requesting clarification and progress related to the lease of the Public Hunting Area Unit A on Kauai.

Commissioner Cremer: I met with my island reps, right now the lease is 'til December. They supposed to be having a meeting, hopefully late October, to discuss the long-term lease. There's be sections, that DHHL will not give back, but it's a safety zone area, which is in the Puu Opae area. They are looking at one other section that they going to give at another in between term, maybe ten years, five to ten years...But we looking good as far as a great portion of the section from trail 2 to trail 5 at a twenty year lease, as long as all agreements and everything come to the table is all right. The part about it is DHHL is requesting a 30% revenue of all permits and tags that are purchased for hunts. So, I told them I don't see no problem with that, as long as we still can retain that area to hunt, because without that we'll be doomed. Whether it's in the regular hunting area or private sector, because there be people poaching in private areas, so it'll affect everybody on the island.

Comm. Smith: They want 30% of any revenue?

Comm. Cremer: The revenue, which would be permits and tags.

Comm. Smith: But not hunting licenses.

Comm. Cremer: No, not licenses. If anything, Lindsey could help us on that too, can give you guys an input on what we discuss yesterday, he's got more information on that. They're planning on doing a hydro storage in the reservoir, and that's a safety section of that area, then they're planning a hydro, which would store water during the day, and somehow pump during the day back up to the reservoir, and flow during the night to create electricity.

Comm. Smith: And that's in the area that would still be open to hunting?

Comm. Cremer: No, that is in the safety area. The safety zone that we had lease of. But they won't renew that section, so it won't be a problem, actually.

Comm. Smith: So the bulk of that area is still going to remain in hunting.

Comm. Cremer: A vast majority of it. We're just worried about the section that they want to do a short-term lease, because of it's kind of more the primary area for deer hunting.

Comm. Smith: Yes, that's one of the closer in the area, right?

Comm. Cremer: Yes.

Comm. Smith: Just wondered if we had looked at it or not.

Chair Sabati: Which area is the short-term lease?

Comm. Cremer: The Puu Opa section closer to the state road that goes up to **Kokee**. That is Unit A. Okay, that's about it.

Chair Sabati: Anything else?

Comm. Buchanan: No, Chair, I have absolutely no clue what they are talking about, because I no live on Kaua'i, but I get it. So I guess my question for the commissioner from Kaua'i is how can we as a commission help you, or you think that everything's working out alright, and the DLNR Kaua'i branch has been very open and receptive...

Comm. Cremer: After our meeting yesterday, I'm pretty happy with what they're telling me.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, nice!

Comm. Cremer: We'll see how it turns out. I'm putting my trust in Lindsey Ibara (DOFAW) and Thomas Kaiakapu (DOFAW). They know how important it is for our island.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. Thank you, DLNR Kaua'i and administrator.

Comm. Smith: And thanks to the DHHL for helping us out on that as well.

Comm. Smith: Well, I mean it's DHHL lands, and they've been working with us and been very cooperative, trying to do the best that they can with us at the administration level.

Chair Sabati: All right. Anything else before we move on? Okay, let's go back to Item 3.

ITEM 3. Follow up discussion regarding the letter submitted by GMAC to BLNR in regards to the Wai'anae aerial shooting plan for the control of feral goats on Oahu.

Commissioner Buchanan: Okay, I don't know where to start with this one, Chair. For the record, Lori Buchanan, Molokai commissioner. And then please, if my fellow commissioners, Josiah, if you can jump in after. I guess recapping our last meeting, we voted on submitting a letter to the board, and maybe erroneously to the board instead of to the DOFAW administrator. But it was regarding the aerial shooting plan that at that time did not commence, and it was asking in the letter to put a hold until we could have further discussion, because DLNR/Oahu DOFAW said that they were doing outreach and they felt that it was sufficient. And the Oahu commissioner --and I don't want to speak for you, Josiah, so if you got to jump in-- was saying that there was still concern about the aerial shooting, and felt that not enough outreach was done. So shortly following our meeting, the shooting occurred. There were a couple of days, and maybe staff can jump in and expand on exactly how that transpired. Chair Sabati started getting calls, Josiah started getting calls, as commissioners, concerned about why aerial shooting was occurring. You know, regardless of whatever community outreach had occurred. So what I did, and it's rough as a commission because we are under the Sunshine Law. We cannot discuss with each other, like staff can discuss openly, about issues. And so we're tied by Sunshine Law not to discuss, but what I did on my own was I went to see Chair Suzanne Case—the Chair was really nice enough to ask the administrator to come and talk story. And so that is when it was confirmed that the project moved forward, and that aerial shooting... So right now I was just trying to confirm what had transpired. And so immediately, and this is my own personal feedback, I had hurt feelings, because I felt like we sat in this room, just like we are today, and there was all the DLNR staff, the administrator was here, we had clearly conveyed on the record, because I read it out loud into the record of the meeting that we had this concern. But I felt that at that point, nobody from the DLNR had said 'Hey hang on, Commissioner Buchanan, we're all set, this is going to occur, and it's going to occur in a couple of days of this meeting.' I felt that that's what should've been done, and at that point we could've conversed about it as commissioners, but that didn't occur. So to me, that was kind of like one, to put it bluntly, it was kind of like a slap in the face to this commission. And as a community advocate, who gives her time freely and at no charge and cost on my community, I felt like 'Am I wasting my time?' So with all the things that is going on, on the island of Molokai, was I wasting my time on this commission because I had sought out, purposely, this commission, giving up all other boards and commissions, in order to move this whole hunting issue along and the protection of wildlife and whatever the bill says, because it's important. It was important to my community, because I have a subsistence community. And so administrator was very, very nice -- and thank you, Dave, for being transparent and having that discussion – the reason why I am saying this on the record is I

want this board to continue to have integrity and transparency, because we represent our community. I understand that staff is staff, and the agency is the agency, and the division, and all of that, but as far as this commission is concerned, we going to be real transparent in how we do business. And so I wanted to bring that out there, and I wanted to convey that, because it's kind of like, so the ball was in your court. So okay, we did this, you did that, you hurt my feelings, I'm wondering if I really pertinent to this whole discussion statewide and on Molokai. But what happened after that was I saw, without being coaxed, I saw leadership within the department say, 'You know what, commissioners, we're going to direct staff to communicate with each island staff.' And I was really happy for that. Because unless our biologists at that level and middle management staff on every island is directed by upper management, by either the chair or the administrator, to converse openly and help us on every island, we not going to get anywhere. So thank you Dave, I appreciated that. I really do. So that's why I showed up for this meeting today. 'because I am still in, okay? and we are trying to build trust. I was driving in from Waianae this morning, and I heard on the radio, 'Trust takes a long time to build, it takes a minute to break, and then it takes a lifetime to repair.' So given the watershed initiative and all the top-down initiatives by this agency, to the people on the ground, me, the grassroots, and how I am affected, and trying to convey that upstairs, and us work together, that's why I still sitting here today, because that's still my hope. We may not agree on the areas and the management options, and we might not agree on the tools, but you need to know why I cannot, I no agree with your tool, or your management options, and we need to work through it. So, that's it. And I'll go on the record to say right now: aerial shooting, although it's occurred on Molokai for a long, long time and other... it really is an offensive tool for me culturally, because of the waste, right? Hawaiians always say 'No poho, no poho' no waste! You know why? Karma sucks, it's going to come back to you one day because you wasting resources. Thank you Administrator, thank you staff, I appreciate it. Thank you, Shane, for reaching out. I appreciate it.

Commissioner Jury: Starting in June when it first began and it was first given to us about the aerial control over in Waianae Forest Reserve, the hunting area, I mean. Coming out of that, I met with forestry management and talked to them about I felt like the outreaching wasn't sufficient in what they were doing. And they agreed, and I think what came out of that was, me personally seeing the forestry manager of Oahu and the wildlife manager attending the neighborhood board meetings personally in Waianae, and I think a good outcome from that was it kind of rang, and it began a new hunting association, a Waianae hunting association that was formed, that our forestry manager met with them again and had more hunters present, and he was there to listen to their concerns. All these things were working up toward that he was being transparent, the Waianae hunting association was also being transparent in what they wanted and what they wanted to suggest to the management here on Oahu. In their follow-up meetings, there was something that went on. One of the things was that the state helped to create a new access point into the Waianae Kai Forest Reserve for hunting goats. I think that was something positive that came out of them. And I say this as a timeline, because this is all working up between June and August, all these things went on, and there was a relationship that was being built, there was

structure, there was understanding, there was collaboration, there was transparency, and all these things were being built within the Waianae, within the goat hunting community, and the forestry and wildlife managers here on Oahu. Unfortunately, like you said, it kind of took a turn coming after the meeting in August, when like how our Chair say, we kind of had a vote on just kind of putting it on hold. And me personally, I just kind of felt that we were getting to the point of such good collaboration, such good communication that a little bit more time would've allowed, like how Commissioner Buchanan said, not have a lifetime of repair that we got to work on, but that trust does take time to build. Unfortunately, it did occur, and if you guys watched the news, we did make the news, and I kind of took that as, for myself too, as well, I feel like part of that responsibility was my own, you know. If somehow some hunters on there saying something to the news, I'm not communicating the information correct to them. Like how Commissioner Buchanan said, another positive that came out of that was now we have more direct communication with the wildlife and with the forestry manager, but needless to say, that it was being worked towards. A new hunting area was being there, we're able to issue salvage permits, talking to them, and this is all not even me getting involved, so it's kind of made the commission a whole in terms of connecting forestry to the community and having that direct relationship and not having me being in the middle as a liaison. And this was coming out, and also one thing that was, even though it went forward, one thing that did happen was there was a request from the hunting association in Waianae talking to our managers on suggesting certain areas not to control within the hunting unit, and that area of suggestion were honored in that time. So even though we as a commission did kind of action item and we voted to put it on hold, and even though it went forward, and there's no lie to that, in the midst of all of that, consideration was taken in from the suggestions of the Waianae hunting association, which is again not controlling a certain area, and I think even before and after that, it was already established that for the next six months or so, they're going to leave that area alone, because they see the need of the hunters across the island to be in that area, and they want to allow them to kind of help out, have a chance to go after the area. There's other areas that they can control, and I think that's kind of like a timeline of us where we're here right now. I think also moving forward, one thing that our board and, Chair, you were asking him about Hawaii something would be good to have Board of Water Supply kind of come more into play, because a lot of this is adjacent to their land. One of the biggest concerns was Makua Keaau being probably the only area left on Oahu to hunt goats. We really need to establish that there's a good population there, and because Board of Water Supply is adjacent to it and currently it is rifle season on Oahu, so, you know, the game there, they're not dumb, they're going to move, guys hunting in the area which going to be on private land, and for some of us who are familiar with the area will know what we're talking about. But the bottom line we'd like to see Board of Water Supply or at least more initiative into keeping a sustained population there to service the subsistence and recreation hunting here on Oahu for goats, specifically. Again, and I speak for my own personal self, I kind of took it to heart that I'm here to serve this island, to serve the hunters on this island, with whatever method that they choose to hunt by, I'm still there to serve them, and to have that lack of communication and that kind of

thing make the news, I kind of took it personally and I want to make sure that I establish and am doing my job well for the people here.

Chair Sabati: Thank you. I'd like to add that first of all, I wasn't present at the last meeting, I had a family medical issue that had to be taken care of, and Lori chaired, and I thank you for doing that, Lori. When we had our meeting, I put out the information to our hunting community on the Big Island, and one of the concerns was an aerial shooting, and when they saw it on the news I got bombarded by calls, and by bunch of upset hunters and practitioners, so I'm hoping that we can get back and start working together, building this trust, open lines of communication, I don't need beat on this, the point I think was made. I'd like to ask the department if you'd like to add to this or make comments.

Commissioner Smith: I met with Lori (commissioner Buchanan) after it happened. I apologize for not saying anything in that meeting, but I didn't really know exactly where things were, I found out after we were scheduled to go like tomorrow. And we had approval, we'd gone to the board, we talked to the community, I felt that we had enough information. And the things that we do aren't always universally popular, but we have to weigh a bunch of things. So one thing is subsistence, don't waste, but we also have to manage forest, I think the Hawaiians probably had something to do with managing Makua Forest as well. We have to look at our water supplies and our water recharge areas, and goats are extremely damaging to those areas. And in the Waianae, they're having a lot of impact, so it's not just a one-sided discussion, and I felt that that discussion was kind of one-sided, so I have to look at both sides of what's going on and try to weigh things and make decisions. So not everything we do is universally popular, we just approved a somewhat controversial operation on Lehua, on Kaua'i. I've done a lot of seabird management, there's a lot of real positive aspects of that. I thought that we had our information in line, and that what we were doing was a net positive for the environment, and we went ahead and did that. And a lot of people screaming at us, but I disagree, and sometimes we just have to proceed and do things. With this, we've got a ton of goats up in the Waianae, so we need to back them off of some areas, they're really having a negative impact on the forest. So, we're going to continue, we want to work with the commission, there's some question, the commission needs to learn, too, you need to learn how to work together. That was my first meeting, I didn't really know exactly where that project was so I couldn't communicate it, so it wasn't an intentional misrepresentation, or not saying anything about something that I knew about, I just didn't know. So I just wanted to make sure you understand that. And I'm really interested in working with you going forward, I think we have a really good relationship. A lot of these things too, I want to see them handled closer at the branches. So we met with our staff, after the last meeting they're like 'Oh, what's this mean, how do we work?' And I think a lot of the work needs to go on at the branches. With the commissioners from each island, with the professionals and the staff on the island, and you guys form a really good relationship, and a lot of these things happen at the island level. And then you come back and report in. I think we're floundering a little bit on both sides at the last meeting, so I apologize if there's some miscommunication there, but, you know,

I heard, trying to listen to both sides and make decisions. And I got a lot of other stuff I need to protect. When I look at practitioners too, it's like 'Yes, we're trying to protect the forest too, native forest,' and there's a lot of stuff going on there for practitioners that goats have negative impacts, so I got to try to weigh all this stuff. I think we have to make difficult decisions sometimes. I think overall, it ended up being positive, I have faith in that, and I have worked with the hunting community for many years, I don't anticipate having any problem working with the community going forward. So hopefully we can just move forward on this one, continue to work together on it, and hopefully, as we go down through the agenda too, what I really want to establish is a relationship with the commission where we work real closely at the island level, we come back and report back, and then the commission what we're really looking at is some of these higher level things, how can we improve hunting, what's going on, we got some good science going on at the university, how can we improve things, I think it's on the agenda later, you know, things like the hunter check station, you know, science-based management of what we're doing. So I just want the commission to understand that I didn't have all the information at my fingertips at the last meeting, so I wasn't trying to hide anything, I just didn't know.

Commissioner Cremer: My question is, did your staff know? because they were here that day of the meeting. I also feel real hurt about this situation, because for me, I no hunt for trophy, I don't own one trophy on my wall, I hunt for meat. In my lifetime, if my father never hunt, if my uncles never hunt, I wouldn't have food on my table. So when you guys do aerial shooting, it really hurts me to see something die for not on purpose. I understand we need to protect the plants, but without food, we not going to eat. It's not going to be a nice place, we might have to depend on the goats. And there will be people that will be able to provide food for you. I no fish too often, but I get fish on my table. Yesterday was the best communication I ever had with the Department on Kaua'i, and you know why? because this commission sits at this table today. And that's one of the main reasons I went to the state capitol and go lobby for this commission. because we never had communication in the past. It was very sad. Never response. Ask for something, nothing. Now me and Lindsey Ibara (DOFAW/Kauai) got a line of communication, and he said he going to try to work on things. In the past they said they going to try, but they didn't. I sorry, Lindsey, but it's the truth. Now with this commission here, you guys all got to be accountable. And we got to be accountable, because I get on job to protect what is for the future of my people in my community, and the state community. I don't know how you guys say you guys never know the shooting was going on. I found it dumbfounded that you guys never know. You guys got to have known. I sorry, but I going to call your guys' bluff. Straight up. It hurts me.

Comm. Smith: No, I did not know. That it was scheduled to go in two days

Commissioner Cremer: But everybody was in the room that is here today, and we said we were going to write a letter asking you guys to hold. Would a month or two months make a difference in the goat population? Would there be thousand more goats born? I don't think so. And I am sorry to be so blunt, because this hurts me inside, because this is my lifestyle and I live off the

land as much as I can. And I may not be Kanaka, but I am Hawaiian at heart, and I one practitioner like she is. I just hope we can be more communicative, and we can heal this thing that had happened. I thank you guys.

Commissioner Ruidas: I never know this took place, I was getting texts and calls saying ‘What the hell went on?’ Then I looked at the... and it’s like ‘Wow!’ You know, I never know that the thing happen, and I read the article and I saw the video, and yeah, it’s like a slap in the face, like Lori said. Because we agreed, and like Cremer said, would one, two months make a difference? We’re in the process of making a committee to figure out how to rectify this situation with DOFAW and the community. So, you just got to give us a chance to help everybody help everybody. That’s all I got to say.

Commissioner Timko: I had questioned whether or not notices had been posted regarding the shooting, and Jason Misaki (DOFAW/Oahu) had said that it was published in the paper, according to the state protocol, it has to be published. You know, what are there, 50,000 people that subscribe to the newspaper? My concern is there has to be a better way to get the notices out to the public beside the newspaper, because people don’t read the paper anymore.

Jason Omick (DOFAW): It’s also online too.

Commissioner Smith: We do what we can, it’s hard, you know, I mean I know that’s kind of tough. I don’t see those notices. I work here, too, and I don’t see those notices. We have certain legal obligations for notice, and we have to follow them, and if people got recommendations on a better notice then we can try to do that.

Comm. Buchanan: Josiah Jury, I wanted to get some clarification, because I heard you say couple of things. So there’s a newly created organization, which is the Waianae Hunting Association?

Comm. Jury: Yes, that’s correct. The gentleman that was here, Michael Sturm, along with other committee members there, created that, and that’s who I am working directly with on these things.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. And then I understand you folks have more access? You guys have more access now? And that was facilitated by the department?

Comm. Jury: Yes. It was facilitated by the forestry and wildlife managers. A foundation was being laid. And also, future access points are still being talked about, meetings is being scripted in, with Board of Water Supply as the facility, the state, the department kind of puts all that in there.

Comm. Buchanan: I heard you mention something about a six-month moratorium, what were you talking, a six month moratorium on what?

Comm. Jury: So, the Waianae hunting association again met with them and suggested on a map, one area if they could leave alone within the control site. Within the Waianae hunting area. So we have a map, and I can share it...

Comm. Buchanan: So that's like one ongoing island level discussion with the DOFAW then?

Comm. Jury: That's between the hunting association, DOFAW, and myself, I'm kind of included in it. They're just leaving that area alone to give guys more chance at that area. It's really so they're going to focus on really inaccessible areas, and then move forward with this project.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. I also heard you say that Board of Water Supply needs to get on board?

Comm. Jury: I think that's the only party that's really, in hearing a lot of the talks and within working with the Waianae Hunting Association, and these other hunters in general who might not be associated with them but are goat hunting, hunters, they understand that Makua Keaau is directly adjacent to the land of the Board of Water Supply, so we wanted to get involved in, maybe, helping provide other access point. We really have not tapped into that resource yet, I mean, meetings are scheduled, but...

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. So then from that concern, I would probably then ask Administrator Smith if you, if DOFAW, or DLNR can assist with trying to get Board of Water Supply to have a conversation? And relay the concern, and then maybe have somebody from there kind of join in on the site-specific management discussion?

Comm. Smith: Yes, we can. We've talked to them for years.

Commissioner Buchanan: Awesome, thank you. Okay, I think that was it. And about the sustainable population, that was also in there, because again, I understand, we do not have any real baseline data other than hunter check in, and we're going to discuss that later. Okay, I think, just one last thing, because Nancy had brought this up and it triggered something about notice. So, twenty-five years I've been going to community meetings, I hear the same thing. 'Nobody told me, nobody told me, I never had notice,' and the department say, 'Well we met all the criteria in chapter administrative rule chapter 19 as to notice, public notice!' Okay. My suggestion would be, when at that level we all working at on site specific stuff, that this commission be tasked with providing the agency with a stakeholder list. And while the biologists and stuff don't have outreach people that get paid to just do outreach all day, I think it would help them to have a list of key stakeholders and their contacts, and even as simple as saying 'Contact Josiah, he the Waianae hunting association person,' and then it's up to him to go and do his email blast to everybody. Then, all of that grumbling during a public thing like this about 'I

never get notice' kind of diminishes. So, that's just my suggestion moving forward. Thank you, Chair.

Chair Sabati: I think that's an excellent suggestion, because you guys have to put it in a public notice, but what I do on West Hawaii side is I put it in an about town community notice, which is free, public PSA on the radio, Facebook, email. It's just match generation, and you can reach more, so if you can get us the information, I'm pretty sure we can get it out and broaden the lines of communication.

Comm. Cremer: Maybe you guys should have a Facebook page?

Comm. Smith: We have a Facebook page. We could probably make better use of it. But I can tell you that regardless of the topic or anything else, everyone always says this. It's not just hunting, it's like everything, every meeting you've ever had. 'Oh, I never heard, I never heard.' And you can have twelve public meetings, and then finally you go into the final decision making meeting, and people show up like 'Oh, I never heard about this!' so it's just ... it's not just hunting.

Comm. Buchanan: That's true.-- as a business person, now, I know -- that somebody going to be problematic, or they not going to be problematic and that's the person that I surely want to make sure that they noticed, and that they're on board, and even if they antagonistic, they cannot say that they wasn't notified. So again, the stakeholder list is really important.

Chair Sabati: Thank you. Anything else before we move on to the next item?

James Cogswell (DOFAW): I was greatly involved in the creation of the act that formed the commission. And part of that act, when we were creating it and talking with the hunters, was to also have island committees that would be established to create that link between this state board, or this state commission, and the islands, so each island commissioner here would be part of the island committees, and they'd have more ways of communicating, and getting these kind of information, and working with those committees that would work on their island specific agendas with the branch that they're at. So that's the main structure that we tried to create. Unfortunately, it was truncated to being just the state commission now, I think that puts more of a burden on each of you, the commissioners, to really reach out to your constituents and try to find that network of committees so that you are made aware, and reach out to the island branch officers, and make sure that communication is there.

Commissioner Buchanan: That's a great idea, and I like that. I hope you can hear that he's giving us a directive as commissioners, that we strengthen our base of outreach. For example, on the island of Molokai, we're trying to organize between soil and water conservation, all the

stakeholder groups that have concerns right now, agriculture being inundated with deer on Molokai, the **aha moku**, all the different perspectives, land owners, and in case you don't know, half of my island is for sale right now, the half that got all the deer. So, we working, we trying to get to that organization. I'm thinking it's gonna take us, you know, almost a year to organize that. But I believe by the end of the year, we at least going to have one meeting with our district person, and so I just wanted to let you know that that's the direction that Molokai is moving in, to organizing all of the people that have an opinion. Thank you.

Chair Sabati: I'd like to add to that, Jon Sabati, West Hawaii, District Commissioner. What we've been doing is working towards that, I had a public meeting in Kona, just had one out north, **Kohalau**, actually Waimea, and when I get back we're scheduling one for **Kauu**. Now, my district is huge, my district is bigger than Oahu, so communication is... I make the sacrifice, and I go out in these community meetings. Granted, we do it through the keyboard, but we also like to do face to face, and we also meet a whole lot of new people, and one of the main things on the agenda is forming working committees, so we're in progress right now for West Hawaii. And I'm going to touch more on that later on in the future item numbers here, but just to let you know that we are working on it. Takes time, our districts are big, trying to pull the communities together, to be on the same page, that's the challenging part. Anybody else would like to add to the item before we move on?

No response.

ITEM 5. A short report by each commissioner summarizing their meetings with DOFAW staff on the island that they represent.

Commissioner Cremer: We actually had our meeting yesterday afternoon, and I know it's busy and we ended up making contact, Thomas Kaiakapu and Lindsey Ibara. There's some items I brought to the table, one was discussion of the Hawaiian Homes lease, and they got back the information to me. Second item was having a hunter shelter in the Na Pali coast area, where it was designated to hunt, there's a good use Pittman-Robertson, we're going to try and work with parks to see if we could get permits, but after going upstairs and talking to them, they said there is permits available that is after the fact, so there is designated permits to hunt there. The only problem is a lot of times the shelters is all taken, so we were thinking about having a designated shelter in two areas of the Na Pali, for the archery hunters. Lindsey said he is going to start working with parks and see what needs to be done, but he is going to have to go with historic preservation and get one site designated by them before it could be made. Hopefully it's a long term, something that we can do in the future. We'll be working on it. The other thing is, we have a section in the GMA combo gate, which is locked all the time, which it wasn't locked when I was growing up. It's a game bird GMA, not a pig or anything, and a lot of times the dogs end up in the GMA, and you got a two mile section that you got to walk with your dogs, where if your dog would pick up the scent of one pig, so I already brought it to Lindsey's attention, and Thomas, if we could have like a maybe how Maui and Big Island has where you call in Friday to

get the combination, and be able to drive in, and they'd have to lock it behind themselves, and they'd be responsible as far because they'd be the guys in the area, you know? Fourth item was to have a community work day in our Unit C area because we have a small mailbox check station. I tried to do that in the past, and we kind of had a complication as far as designating an area, but Lindsey going to start working on finding an area near the reservoir, something a little bit more out of sight where we can make them bigger, sheltered area for a check station, and designated dog kennels in the back to store lost dogs, because we don't have that in that area. But the fifth item I brought to the table to them was do archery hunt week days, with a permit in the unit area, because the population there, and the archery enthusiasts on our island is really getting to a high population, lot of archery, you'd be surprised, there's archery tournaments sometimes twice a month, and Na Pali is really low in population as far as goats because of the NAR situation, and the trails, so. I would think it would be good if the archery guys had some place to go, because I don't archer, I don't hunt bow, but I feel for the people who spend all their money on archery, and there's not really good hunting as far as goats. Item six we've discussed a little bit, we are going to work on it when rule changes come into play, we can discuss them, so. Other than that, I really appreciated Lindsey. I think this commission was something that needed to be done fifty years ago, honestly, because I never get better communication with you guys department than I ever got in my life. When I look back, and I think about talking to my dad, like I told you, hunting is something that I grow up and I love, and I love it because it helped me survive. When I told my dad in the past, fifteen years old, I told him 'Hunting is going to be something they are going to take away from us someday,' and I not meaning completely, but if you look at all the landlocks, and the privileges we had before... I could hunt any place, growing up. Today I cannot. Just because of liability, and the way life is. So the public lands is really important, and I told my father 'It's going to slowly get taken away, slowly by slowly,' and he like 'No way, they cannot do that!' And now he look at me and he say, 'Boy, you right.' So I think it's important, this communication we get, and I appreciate it, Lindsey, and I thank you guys, Commissioner. Thank you.

Commissioner Buchanan: Shane DeMattos and I haven't met, but I thank Shane for reaching out. I have all the copies of the multiple hunter meetings that we had from 2006, and there's common themes that run throughout them. I am trying to put them into short-term, easy kind of stuff, you know, easy low-hanging fruit, and then the longer term type of issues to battle. I told Shane we going to get there. If I get that organization of people done by the end of December, I'm going to ask him to come over, so his administrator know he got to approve travel. So we working on it, and then in the middle of everything we have our island being up for sale, and it just happens to host the largest population of axis deer on the island. And so the community is actually being inundated with so many meetings right now, that nobody know what they doing. Because they're all community meetings, and even my own community is confused as to which one is this. So, because we are in our general management plan draft, as total island under Maui county, and in that is wildlife issues as well. So, I am working on it, not at the speed of light, but we are organizing. We already have stakeholders. You already may have been getting calls from

them. And so that's where we are status quo, we going to have more to report at our next meeting, hopefully. Okay, that's it. Thank you.

Comm. Smith: Can I ask you a question? How many acres of Molokai is for sale?

Comm. Buchanan: I don't know, 56,000? I don't know, at last count, I don't know the TNKs. They have other holdings, they have offices on Oahu.

Comm. Smith: I'm just wondering how many acres on Molokai.

Comm. Buchanan: I'm not sure, that was an old report, and if you really need to know information, guess what? You have to put down \$4 million retainer just to have them share that information with you. So, that's weeding out the type of people that are coming in to look to purchase. So it's kind of like Lanai, where Mr. Ellison came in and purchased all of Dole's stock. Although we not selling stock, we are selling land, so hopefully they are going to pay the conveyance tax.

Comm. Smith: I'm just wondering if there might be some opportunities to pick up land for hunting areas.

Comm. Buchanan: I will say, as a community, we have approached some people we feel that have that capability of coming up anywhere between \$80 million and the list price of \$260 million, and we hope that it's local ownership instead of international ownership. Because we like to talk to our people.

Comm. Smith: I just wondered if we could maybe talk to them, I don't know if they're open enough to talk to us about purchasing certain areas, you know. Like not real high value, we don't want residential areas, we don't want reserved areas, but, you know, are there some open land areas that might be able to be subdivided, or that TMKs would be such that it would be possible to look at potentially buying some area.

Comm. Buchanan: I don't know, I just know personally when we approached the local manager for the state holdings, they weren't interested in doing any negotiations outside of focusing on the sale. And then so we'd have to take that out with the new sale people. But you can try!

Comm. Smith: Okay, just wondering. Always looking for opportunities, you know.

Comm. Buchanan: We have ongoing discussion with the ranch about outfitting. They currently do a lot of high-paid price hunts, they host a long range shooting stuff every year, we get people at the airport every weekend that have been coming here for trophy hunting. The ranch has been hands off on giving

anybody who wants permission to hunt, to come to hunt. Which is a far cry from what they used to be. So, with the addition of a new manager, they're giving a lot of leeway to middle staff, so Rex Kamakana, and Rayman Hero has been giving a lot of personal requests for hunting. And the ranch has always been established an area for archery only. So it's been hands off, within those areas. And they have, the archery people, have their own organization. And so they get dibs on the good spots, because they doing archery. And that has been for quite some time now. So the ranch is handling their own hunting issues, and they went really hands on about a year ago, hired outside security in order to help them to manage all of their fence cutting and transgressions. And it's greatly improved, I will say that. So. And then we always just get the watershed fencing doing... of course, TNC aerial shooting, and NARs shooting, and that kind of stuff. And all of our Ohia is dying, you know. So we get a lot of issues going on on Molokai. That's it, that's all.

John Medeiros (DOFAW): John Medeiros, wildlife manager. I just wanted to update you that we also did talk with Jeffrey, and we gave an update, what's going on Maui, new areas we're trying to acquire, concerns about access. So that was about six months ago, so he kind of knows what's going on.

Comm. Ruidas: I know Jeffrey was in charge of that gate situation with getting access to Mauka. Maybe you could give Lindsey some information on how you guys organized that, because I really like to work on that for the Moil'epae trail road access. Thank you.

Comm. Smith: Yes, we did that on Oahu, too, where we gave special access for hunters to get through a combo gate. It's somewhat problematic, even the hunters, they mess with your system all the time. I mean, you give them the combo, then they go through it and they change the combo, because there's only two kinds of combo locks, you can get the key and change them. So, it's problematic, but you know, it's worked kind of for years. We try to give special dispensation to hunters for access.

Comm. Cremer: I guess, they're working out who they have to be leasing to, because two sides are leased, is GMA with two cattle ranch area.

Comm. Smith: I was looking at the Kauai map the other day, and that there's some big chunks of state forest reserve that are completely landlocked, we don't have access to, so that should be a high priority, I think, trying to get access into those areas. But we'll be working on that.

Commissioner Ruidas: Okay, so, we met, I guess, last month, with Shane DeMattos, and we had two community meetings since June, I think. But anyway, one of the main priorities is the lease that's upcoming. We had a meeting with the landowner on Tuesday, and they're committed 100 percent to signing the lease, contingent on the next lease, which has to have a management plan for the area. So the next three years is, as long as the paper goes to them, they're going to sign it. The next thing we talked about was the youth hunt, continuation of the youth hunt, that's a really good program. And adding another weekend, I mean, a weekend day to the archery season, to give the hunters an opportunity to hunt two weekends instead of just one. And basically, we have a good relationship with our DOFAW manager, so we really don't have any problems beside that. That's it.

Comm. Smith: Okay, can I throw in one thing? So, this three year lease with the requirement that we do a management plan. So I was talking to Scott Fretz, who's the branch manager for Maui Nui and, you know, that's going to be a tough thing to pull off in-house. So what we're thinking is that it would be nice to go to the legislature and request money to have an outside consultant, a planner, come in and help us out with that. So we'd meet with the hunters, and we'd meet with DOFAW, and everything, but we'd bring in some capacity with an actual planner to help you go through all that process. So it might be good if the commission and/or hunters, and, you know, people, worked with their local legislative representatives to try to get some money appropriated in this next session to do a plan, game management plan, for Lanai.

Comm. Ruidas: And that's in February?

Comm. Smith: Yes. So they'll need to be putting things in in January, probably, and we should probably do a little bit of leg work ahead of that time. We'll be talking to people, too, but it's one thing if DOFAW goes to the legislature and asks for money, and it's another thing if the community goes to the legislature and asks them for money. Big difference.

Comm. Ruidas: Well, I talked to a lot of hunters, they said they're ready to go. You just got to set the pace, and...

Comm. Smith: So, let us get you some information on what, how much we should ask for, and for what, and then maybe we can have the, hunting community can kind of lead the charge on that.

Comm. Ruidas: Yes, because the next extension of, the next lease, they're looking at ten years. So, this little work would, solidify everything for ten years, so it'd be worth it.

- John Medeiros : Yes, I mean, for us in DOFAW, and especially Lanai is a great asset for us, and we definitely want to have a long term lease. I mean, initially when we went back to the table and were working on this, we wanted a ten, twenty-year lease. We knew that wasn't going to happen, so right now, we're doing our best, by just getting the three, and trying to meet their demands, so we can continue to have a longer-term lease. So that's our ultimate goal, to have a long-term lease. We don't want to lose Lanai.
- Comm. Smith: Honestly, I think I can say, that Lanai is probably hooked up already in the entire state for hunting. Right, I mean, when we lost, when we couldn't spend federal funds on Lanai anymore, it was unanimous with all of our staff that we just take the money for the lease right off the top of the wildlife revolving fund, and pay for it. It's an asset that serves hunters statewide, so it's a really important thing.
- Comm. Buchanan: In the bigger picture, besides Lanai, would you say the same type of strategy occurring on the other islands, or do you need help with, outside help on your management plans?
- Comm. Smith: Yes, I think a lot of that can happen between the hunters on each island, I don't really want to try to drag that from my level. Certainly, if the managers are professionals on staff, and the commissioners that are interacting with them on each island were to come up with specific examples of where we could use some capacity, I mean, we do this all the time, we go ask for funding to do plans and designs, and constructions. So you go in for a CAP and you try to get a planner to help you out, because there's no way that we can do, we have the capacity to write these really complicated plans, or environmental assessments, or environmental impact statements. So when things like that come up, we had to redo our statewide action plan, wildlife action plan, we had to redo our forest action plan, and we hired consultants to help us write both of those. And they work with our staff, our staff provides them a lot of the information, but they go back and do a lot of the, just the nuts and bolts groundwork. It just adds capacity, and so if particular islands were to come up with 'Hey, we think we should have a plan for a particular area,' then we can, I would go plan by plan on an island, take that recommendation out of the islands, and then go to the legislature and ask them for money to do those kinds of things.
- Chair Sabati: Wouldn't we be able to go ahead and, since we've been waiting for a game management plan from the state, it's been lingering for years and years, one sustainable game management plan. I'm not saying

overpopulate, but one sustainable management plan, wouldn't we be able to go out to an outside entity with monies from legislature to write up a plan?

Comm. Smith: Absolutely. That's a good example of how it's really hard for us to bring the capacity for that kind of thing, but if you can get some capacity from outside, then it would happen.

Comm. Buchanan: So if the game commission, with the help of James Cogswell, had the support of their local representatives in the legislature to pass a bill, could also go and educate our legislature that this is a gap within the system that we need to fill. And how that would greatly benefit us, and how that would greatly benefit you, because you unable to meet that gap with current funding standards. So strategically, if we went in and said 'Hey, for this year Lanai is a priority,' because in your statewide plan, and thank you for the consultants, but they put nothing I said into the plan when they write them, but that's okay. I still went talk to your statewide consultants. Thank you, Paul Conry. Who never put Molokai's plans that we came to public meeting and said, because I came to the board and testified that your consultant never put my plan inside, so that's okay. If we go and say that, you know, for this year, we need \$80,000 to help Lanai come up with their plan, but we also convey at the same time that 'Hey, this current condition of the gap in planning still exists on every island, and we not there, and it cause this big rift, and unsupportive of the watershed initiative,' etc... But then, we go as far as to say that we going to meet these, I think from you folks, when you said we going to work on it, what we really need is how that fits into the wildlife action plan, and all of your other federal drain monies that you're hoping to trickle down to the different programs. Because when we get into all the different 401, 406 programs, and stuff, we don't know that. So you got to bring that, and work with us on that, so we can come and fill that gap, with hopefully extra monies request from the legislature. I think we get more chance, actually, than you, Dave.

Comm. Smith: Oh absolutely. That's what I'm saying.

Comm. Buchanan: I think we get more chance, and Cremer go to his reps on Kauai, and we go to Onishi, and we go to, they going to listen to us. Instead of coming to you at finance and going...

Comm. Smith: We're last in line, let me tell you.

- Comm. Buchanan: Okay, so, but you hear me saying that staff got to work with us to formulate how we going to package this request, you know, because ultimately what going to happen is a village could bring one bill, one money bill. They going to have to go to finance and ways and means. So.
- Comm. Smith: Yeah, there's a big money bill like that, or you can just do it as a, when we come up with a list of priorities for each island, then you can start to pick them off one by one. So a couple different approaches.
- Comm. Cremer: For me, the reason why my reps had pushed for the commission, is because I explain to them about the situation with not having one game management plan, not having communication, and I laid everything on the table, and I said 'With the commission, it'll work better.' So I don't think they going to give me everything I want, but I think they going to be realistic and help where they can.
- Comm. Smith: That's why you have to be realistic in your asks, and strategic, and we can work together on that.
- Chair Sabati: I'd like to add to this, you know, game management plans should be specific for each island. The Big Island, we actually created a game management plan. Dave Smith sat on the board. That was over ten years ago. And the thing is still sitting at DLNR. So yeah, we can get funding, the plan can be created, but if it's not activated, it's useless. You know, I sat on that committee, and we did input, we created the plan, went to DLNR, DOFAW, and then we've been waiting and waiting and waiting.
- Comm. Smith: Oh, was that the Dick Hofflinger's plan?
- Chair Sabati: Yes, we had the whole committee, I was on the committee, we had guys from each district, Dave Smith, they went through, sit and wait, wait, wait, wait, and nothing! That's kind of a bad example. I don't mean to burst the bubbles on game management plans, but something's got to be done. What if you do get the money, and you spend the money creating game management plan, then it stalls, and sits. You guys all know over a period of time there's changes in climate, changes in the land, change in population. Game management plans have to be adjusted. At the moment it was created, and then go ten years... what good is it? All that time, and money, and effort is wasted. We're still waiting to hear about the Big Island game management plan. And that's one of the things I'm going to bring up on the other items. But, so, there's got to be accountability. And that's one good example. I hate to see everybody else work hard and get

funding, create a game management plan, and then it just sits on somebody's desk.

Comm. Smith: Well, you got to hire the right person to do your plan too, and it needs to come to us in a form that we can use. I don't think we got a plan that was well enough vetted and operational. So we have to make sure that the contractor that you hire gives us something and is well vetted. It can't be a one-sided plan that comes from one group.

Chair Sabati: Well, I understand that, but it went, and then it sat there. Weren't saying 'Hey, we need to make these changes' and so forth, it just, we haven't heard nothing.

Comm. Smith: I don't think it was well vetted enough. And so it goes right back to not having enough capacity, so let's hire an actual contractor and let's not hire Dick, because he didn't get the plan to where it should have been to get it approved, and let's get a contractor and get the thing done.

Commissioner Jury: So just, again, thank you Chair, and for each of us summarizing our meetings. So, we had our meeting a few weeks ago with the Forestry and Wildlife Manager, as well as we're also fortunate enough to attend I think it was two Hunter Ed classes that was held here on Oahu. Both myself and the other Oahu commissioner, we were able to attend. Kind of just putting ourselves out there as outreaching, another tool to letting the new people who obtaining their hunting license, gaining hunter education, kind of know what's going on at this level, and kind of put a face to the commission, kind of explain on what we are doing. And then again, meeting with them, we kind of look at Oahu, and we consulted with the wildlife and the forestry manager and talking about our issues here on Oahu, and you know, a lot of different things we talked about, certain areas that we are able to go into, or how we can work with this special use permits in the future, helping to acquire leave in a certain area. Of course, you know our issue on Oahu, a lot of land users in one area, multiple people, population. So, trying to work towards that, working in different areas. We did talk about some type of collaboration effort within the hunting community, and at one point was a hunting community and the state, which is probably starting an additional checking station at Pomoho PHA, where we can work alongside DLNR and kind of work with hunters, and help open up an area smaller, no matter how small or big a project is, at least creating this bridge, creating this atmosphere, where guys can have a relationship. And yes, that's kind of where we're at, we're ongoing with certain areas that's not at this point permitted, but we're working with them on how we can get the permit process through. Certain area that is landlocked on our side through the various associations is us kind of approaching them and working alongside of getting support from whichever, from different means. From the state, you know we cannot force you landlocked areas and private land owners and say 'Hey, we're trying to get through this area,' this is what we want to do, and we have the support of the state as well. So it's kind of slow going, but we're in the right direction. I'm happy

where we're at, and our suggestion and my suggestion, and the Oahu Game Commission, speaking on behalf of all of the hunters here, kind of gaining more access into different areas, and we working toward that. I think we're on the right track. And, yeah, just then keeping us in the loop for Oahu, on some of the acquisitions. About those areas that's in various states of acquisitions, they're allowing us to be more involved in it, and other things are changing hands, really taking in what the hunting committee might have to say about it. That's pretty much it.

Commissioner Timko: Nancy, Oahu Commissioner. I met with Jason Misaki last Friday, it was a good meeting, and overall, even after last month, August meeting, I felt that he was doing his job, reaching out to the community, and working with the hunters. He stressed the point that their job is not just working with the hunters, but that their job is also working with the hikers, and everyone else who uses the land. So, yeah, I have a better understanding of how they're working constantly to facilitate access to new areas in addition to current hunting areas. What they're doing working for the game bird hunters here, raising the birds so that they can be released during bird-hunting season, so. It was a short meeting, but good. I mean, Oahu doesn't have the same problems the rural areas have, so.

Joey Mello (DOFAW): So, Joey Mello, East Hawaii manager. Ryan and I have been in communication, but I'm not going to steal his thunder, let him report next time. But we have been talking, he's just having a hard time at work right now, real busy at work.

Chair Sabati: Okay, Jon Sabati, West Hawaii district. We haven't had a chance to meet with DOFAW because Kanalu Sproat so busy out in the field, so we're working on scheduling a meeting with him. I had some conversations with him, some items, so it's work in progress. Our district is so big, our hunting areas got so much things they got to do. So we just trying to find time in the schedule where we can meet. But that's where that's at right now.

Comm. Buchanan: I guess then my question would be maybe to Joey, is how is the Hawaii Island staff, since you guys have all of Hawaii on one island acreage. You guys are always constantly short on staff, or you guys meeting, are you...

Joey Mello (DOFAW): Little bit of both. We could add a couple, but what we need to do is fill a current position inside. Currently we have two biologists filled now, but really no techs, I got one tech that's out on workers comp, but the tech positions are empty. And then Kanalo has three techs, and no biologists on staff. So I need a committed game biologist, never had one, East Hawaii, we've all done dual purpose, but we also need to fill what we have now. Good point, Lori, we are still very short staffed.

Comm. Buchanan: I guess that would be one good opportunity to hear from the other staff on each island how they are doing, because I know I got nobody on Molokai, I mean, except the forestry person. I don't have a wildlife person, so maybe you can expound on that?

John Medeiros (DOFAW): Tony is the wildlife person. He is the wildlife person on Maui. He's our technician on Maui. We have a lot of positions that need to be filled, we're in the process of filling. Right now, I'm short six positions. And one includes the seabird biologist, which we're in the process, we finally got our list. And the rest are pretty much technicians. So our on-the-ground people. And we get that moving slowly, but it's getting there. Filling those positions. We also have one coming to Lanai, another technician, which is going to help.

Comm. Smith: When I came in, we had about a 25% vacancy, and we've probably filled about nine out of ten of them, and we still have a 25% vacancy, so it's just been this churn. And a lot of it was internal processes, and things were going really slow, and I think we've worked out a lot of those, and we have a lot of positions out right now. But one really important thing that perhaps, you know, the chair of the commission or something you guys could think about is, I don't know if it would help, but you could always encourage the department to move forward on hire, you know, prioritizing... It is a priority, we are working on it, it's my top priority, is filling positions, but there's only so far... I'm not really in charge of that, per se, so there's only so much I can do, but it's been a really high priority for us, to fill our positions. The other thing is, with the legislature coming back into session -- and I always call it a slow-motion train wreck, I can just see it coming -- we're going into another legislative session with a whole bunch of open positions, which is always dangerous, because they'll have a tendency to just go through and line them out, they took five of them last year. So encouraging your legislators to maintain... tell them 'We understand there's a lot of positions in DLNR, we also understand they're working as hard as they can to fill them, it's not lack of trying, and to please protect the positions,' because if we have open and vacant positions, say a biologist, or a technician, or a forest worker, too, that's going to help do a lot of this game work, and the leg. goes and zaps that out, then it's gone.

Comm. Jury: Yeah, I just have a question, Chair. So, you're talking about positions, is the Access and Acquisition position still vacant? What's the status on that for the state?

Comm. Smith: Well, we're just filling right now, right now we're in the process of filling our Trails and Access position, and that's focused largely on Na Ala Hele program trails. But there's really going to be a much more, when this person comes on, I'm going to task them with a much more active role in terms of acquisitions and access. And what we'd like to do is take the

funding from that position, take that funding and put that position under trails and access program, recreational trails and access program, and we'd like to build up our capacity in that program to be able to focus on access. We'd like more capacity for our abstract groups too, because we've been able to gain a lot of access and protect access for public hunting areas, just with our abstractor going through and finding stuff, like 'Oh, look, we've got an easement here actually,' and so, somebody can go back and do that research. It's really important, there may well still be things out there, low hanging fruit where you just go find 'Hey, we actually have an easement here!' When I came, I know a branch, there was easements existing that people had forgotten about, private land owners that just never shared the fact that there was an easement there. Kind of have to go through and do your own research to find out that actually the state had an easement through there, so now we can provide access. It's a good use of time.

Comm. Cremer: what is staff situation on Kauai?

Lindsey Ibara: Right now, for Kaua'i, for our wildlife side, we get one Nene biologist, one Nene biologist we got to fill, two technicians under the Nene position that is vacant on the wildlife side. Strictly for game, you have me, and then we get one, in fact, that one we got to fill too, we get somebody just emergency hired into one of the game techs under the state, and we got another game tech funded by I think it's wildlife revolving, and then we got one RCUH.

Comm. Cremer: The game mammal biologist went to birds? where did Clay move?

Lindsey Ibara: Well, that is me, like just a game biologist. Yeah, the biologist opening is for Nenes. Clay moved to seabird biologist. Yeah, his position is vacant, and then the other tech left, so her position is vacant, and then our biologist, she left, so her position is vacant. So, but that, going back to that is, so that will put my game guys for help, because the Nene season is coming up, so we all trained in surveying and banding, so that would take some of our game guys and help on the Nene project. Just for the breeding season, which is December to March-ish. And that, we haven't take full time, but this will pull some of our staff for go and help do that thing, stuff like that. As far as the game side, we pretty good, but like I said, it's just for a last year and a half, so. We still got plenty maintenance jobs we are catching up on, and starting for do more trapping, and other stuff.

Comm. Buchanan: How time consuming is the banding for the Nene? Which runs from when to when?

Lindsey Ibara: Maybe like once or twice a week during the peak banding season. Other than that, the surveys...The peak is January to March.

Comm. Buchanan: So three months, twice a week, how much staff?

Lindsey Ibara: One or two, depending on how much they would band. And some days they only going banding 1000, so they only need one guy. Some days they don't need anybody.

Comm. Buchanan: You guys get one volunteer program, or the protected status does not allow you?

Joey Mello: Because it's endangered species, you need permits to even handle them.

Lindsey Ibara: We do use volunteers for the game side for various projects.

Joey Mello: Just to expand on, Lindsey touched on it, but I get a lot of questions from hunters, 'What does that one have to do with this one?' We all help each other, we all work together. When there's no Nene biologist, then somebody else is filling in. The flip side – because this meeting is about hunting, right? – so I just mentioned about our staffing... so for the last twenty... since 1993, my position, or my old position, which Ian Cole is in now, a non-game position, has been doing all of the hunting stuff. And I spent, for twenty-some years, I spent probably 60% of my time on hunting stuff as a non-game biologist. So when we talk about the staffing, just to... I mean, most of you guys probably picked that up, but a lot of our constituents call and say 'What does that have to do with it?' You know, we're all a team, and we all get everything together. So when we are fully staffed, then everybody is helping with the hunting program, and everybody turns and helps with the native program, and everybody turns and helps with the Alala, that's a big thing going on right now on the big island. So that's the reason, in case there's any confusion.

Comm. Buchanan: I guess it's, the other islands, we never hear nothing from Ryan and Jason. If you guys wanted to contribute...

Ryan Peralta: We all have the same issues, as far as personnel and as far as...

Comm. Buchanan: Mister Chair, I find this really helpful. I like to give the people on the ground opportunity to tell us what is their troubles, instead of bussing them up every time, It's nice. Thank you.

Chair Sabati: Okay. Let's move on. Item six.

ITEM 6. Update by the commissioners on the creation of a comprehensive list of hunting and wildlife related issues per district.

Comm. Ruidas: I think I covered that the last time, remember, in Item 5, but I just picked the three highest priorities, that's all I did. Is that okay?

Comm. Jury: Oh yeah, I agree with him. I think that covered it for Oahu, but I'm just saying again, I think it's just access, and just a lot of people in a certain area because of the population here on Oahu that we deal with. So multiple land users in one area, which including the public hunting areas, always is our issue that we have here. And some landlocks.

Comm. Buchanan: May I interrupt for a second? Shaya Honarvar handed out a draft list, what Shaya did on her own -- which was really awesome, was she, because she also did the minutes of the meetings -- she was pulling out, arbitrarily on her own, to her own volition, to pull out what she thought might be concerns from testimony that was offered up by individual commissioners. And so, she listed that and put it on this draft paper. So the reason why it couldn't be ready to work or anything, is because she did it on her own without us directing her to do it. And it's just for consideration. So if we want to start to work off of this static and comprehensive list, we could do that. And even now, when you are submitting testimony, can even look and go 'Yeah, I said that, that is still one concern,' you know. But thank you, Shaya, for that! That was really awesome of you to go out and to do that. You can take a look at it.

Chair Sabati: Thank you.

Comm. Buchanan: It's really fast and easy to read, and... and even if you like it or make corrections to it now, if we want to make a motion to adopt this as a beginning of a comprehensive list, then that's a great idea, too. It's not an action item, we can put it on the list for the next agenda.

Comm. Smith: Yeah. What you might want to do is circulate something that people can look at.

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah, so we are circulating now, and since that's an item, and we discussing it, and we already went to item five, maybe whoever we started with -- we started with Lanai'i down there -- you can look on this and just say... go ahead, Shaya.

Comm. Smith: So you could attach it to the next agenda.

Shaya Honarvar: All of the points that have been brought up in the last two meetings, they're very general. The commissioners are saying 'We need to work on access and acquisition. But where? How? We need more details. For example we talked about the lease for Lanai and Kaua'i, that was very specific and we could look at that and work on that. So again, this list is very general. Everything I've been hearing in the past two meetings has been very general. So, maybe you want to consider taking what I have, what you have said in the past two meetings, and then kind of put some bullet points under it, and say 'Okay, specifically maybe this would be interesting to work on.' And I think it has been brought up already in the previous item, right? More specific details. Please email me anytime, and then I'll keep track of this list.

Chair Sabati: Thank you.

Comm. Buchanan: With that I would have one suggestion: That we table Item 6, and circulate the draft discussion, and we could take it up on the next agenda. So we'll table this discussion for the next meeting of the GMAC where we can discuss this, and then people have already read it and made their recommendations, and they can start to be a comprehensive list.

Chair Sabati: Yes, because I have some specific stuff that I would like to add to it too. But I'd like to do a little bit of discussion, because the community asked me to bring this forward.

Comm. Cremer: For me, the list kind of was what I discussed earlier in five. I think the number one thing was communication, and I think we succeeded in that area. I said it not necessarily is going to be agreeable like I talk to Lindsey and Thomas, not necessarily I don't like hear what they have to say, or they're going to like hear what I have to say, but we got to learn that we got to come to some kind of common ground, and know that we all working for the same direction, hopefully. Which have been sustainable hunting, and a game management plan, things that we need for a long time, for now for us, and for the future. I think the number one thing, like I said, is communication, and everything else will fall into place, not necessarily going to be what we like hear, or what we like do. One of the things is aerial shooting, I no like aerial shooting, but sometimes I not going to get what I like. But, being able to communicate about those things is the most important thing, so everybody know what's going on. So we can tell our people that we working for, as commissioners, what we doing. And like again, I said thank you, the communication is important,

and we are getting that, and we can work towards all the other goals that we need to. Thank you.

Chair Sabati: Okay, for the West Hawai'i district, again the concerns came up was the game management plan and wildfire management for Puu Anahulu. Also, was brought to me by the hunting community was that hunters like to have input on projects or possible projects funded by the wildlife revolving fund, for our district. The other concern that they would like to bring forth is the **Koai** mitigation area. About three hundred acres, from what I was told, is sitting on the Land Board, and I guess waiting for executive order and signature. So we like to see, you know, that move forward. Because that's a hunting area.

Comm. Smith: What is that? Which area?

Chair Sabati: This is the **Koai** mitigation area, it's about three hundred acres, **Koai**. Is that the...

Joey Mello: If it's three hundred, you're probably talking about the Mokai lease, that was never included in the reforestation, yeah?

Chair Sabati: Right.

Joey Mello: We are trying to get that back, but I'm sorry, but I haven't been involved with Kanalu and Steve on the discussion, I'm supposed to be, because we kind of joined...

Chair Sabati: That's one of these that I'll be talking to him about, how we can move forward with that. The other concern from the hunting community was the HCP, the habitat conservation plan for Puu Anahulu and Puu waa waa. I just got the HCP through email from Kanalu and it's pretty thick, I haven't finished going through it. People are asking 'Why's it taking so long?' because it's been like over ten years. Another thing that's over ten years. So they would like to know what's the status on that. Another concern was the **Kohala** goat situation. They going to put miles and miles of fence, we understand they got to protect the habitat, so they want, I guess, the hunters are concerned about eradication, aerial eradication, meat salvage, and all of that. And when it comes to the helicopter eradication questions pop up, is this only permitted on state land, to use a helicopter for eradication and herding, or is it permitted also on private property? I guess it popped up with the issue of they are doing it on Hawaiian Homes, rounding up the sheep. So that's one of the concerns that we would like to get more clarification on, the proper use of the aerial management, use of

helicopters. So that's the most specific things that I want to add to the list, and I will email it to you, and I thank you Shaya for putting this together.

Comm. Cremer: So you're saying that they are using state-funded aerial shooting in DHHL land?

Chair Sabati: They're not shooting. From what I was told they're using the helicopter to herd, round up and herd the sheep. So the question was, is this permitted, you know? Everybody knows that DOFAW can use helicopter aerial shooting for management, but what is the extent of that? Can it be also used on Hawaiian Home Lands, private property, or, you know? Just looking for clarification. Yes?

Joey Mello: I can answer some of that, but I can look further into it. They requested and got a permit, we were authorized to give DHHL a permit to herd, and we, we discussed with them several years ago when they created the 'Aina Mauna plan and encouraged them to utilize the sheep, if they're going to reduce that herd. And so what they're doing is they're herding them into a big corral and they're issuing them out to their beneficiaries.

Comm. Buchanan: You cannot use a helicopter to herd wildlife, Without a permit from the state. So you guys gave them a permit to herd using a helicopter.

Joey Mello: No aerial shootings. They can do sighting, surveys, and herding under the conditions—

Comm. Buchanan: So aerial shooting and herding was a part of the legal verbiage that got passed under the uniform codes about two years ago when the state was offered their position when that big who-ha-ha came on Big Island, we passed a—it came under the FAA, so a federal administration rule. That was a uniform code rule that got amended to include aerial shooting and herding with helicopter. That is what allowed the state to do it, that's my understanding. Unless anybody in here get anything...

Comm. Smith: I don't think that's quite right, I think, what we did a couple years ago at the legislature was we just clarified state law to exempt state employees.

Comm. Buchanan: For flight exemptions.

Comm. Smith: Specifically. We always felt that we were in fact allowed, but the language was legally ambiguous so we just changed something and made it—

Comm. Buchanan: Because the federal law supersedes that, and that's how come the amendment had to be made to the code under FAA.

Comm. Smith: I'm not aware of that...

Comm. Buchanan: Maybe we should have a clarification on that, just for us, so you know, you know, because that's a big sore spot, I think, you know? Bringing that up and somebody explain that in one future agenda meeting would be awesome—

Comm. Cremer: Yes, please.

Comm. Buchanan: —let's address that.

Comm. Cremer: My question to him is, is DHHL doing the herding or is the state doing the herding for DHHL?

Joey Mello: DHHL is doing that on their own land, that's their employees and beneficiaries. The reports on what they're herding and how they're herding is reported every year to the Department of Interior.

Comm. Buchanan: That's because it's an FAA federal rule under uniform codes that have to be amended to exempt the state in order to do that, that's the reason why. That's my understanding, but I don't have legal background, so. We'll bring it up in a future meeting, in the agenda. Thank you, I appreciate it

Chair Sabati: Right. So, Joey, that got brought up to me because everybody saw from Saddle Road the massive herding, and the first question was "What happens to the sheep?" and I said "I don't know, I'll find out." But it says you said DHHL goes to the beneficiaries. I can tell you right now a lot of the Hawaiians say "I never hear nothing about it," so it seems like a privileged few is getting the sheep, and they're getting them by trailer loads, so that's the complaint, you know, I know that's nothing to do with you, but I'm just passing on the information that, that's been coming to me...

Joey Mello: I would suggest that it's probably a similar thing like with, we talked about earlier, with us getting it, you know—we put it out in the Star-Bulletin. Only 50,000 people out of 1.3 million get the Star-Bulletin, all right, so they probably have the same communication issues on both sides.

Comm. Cremer: It happens the same way with Kauai, because the beneficiaries on the west side is the only ones that is discussing the Pupai in Unit A section, so a vast majority of the beneficiaries use that land to gather throughout island, but only the west side beneficiaries meet and discuss them with staff.

Comm. Buchanan: So if this board puts notice onto DOFAW that “Hey, you don’t just be handing out permits for wildlife control like candy,” because you can, within their procedures in order for them to hand out that permit, they have to follow procedures that the requestor is making. So if I come in and I go “You know what, I get thousand acres of homestead land or whatever—Joey, write me one permit for wildlife control, or control at night because I get damaged crop,” they have a check list, “Give me one picture of your damaged crop” So maybe in the rules we can assert something to make amendment for a little bit more oversight before they start just handing out herding and aerial permits, because right now his only recourse for these people grumbling is to go to Hawaiian Homes now, and Hawaiian Homes can say “Hey we can, DOFAW gave us a permit,” and so gee, they’re all going to jump on DOFAW, “What authority do you have to give up these permits?” So you see how the food chain work, yeah? So we got to stop that at some point either by amending the protocols for which they give out the permit so they have more oversight, and saying “Did your, requestor, you know, have authority to do this, from the community or whatever?” Game Commission, I would like to be notice, maybe we can put one rule in to say that we going to get notice every time one wildlife control permit come in for anything over 500 acres, I think that’s where this board can be helpful.

Comm. Smith: Probably not going to happen. It’s not like we just give out permits, we consider them very carefully.

Chair Sabati: Well, what they’re doing, they’re herding, and then they’re loading them up in horse trailers, and they’re taking them away, and I don’t know what happen to the sheep. I have no idea if they’re relocating or slaughtering, because supposedly it was the beneficiaries of Hawaiian Homes. They are taking the sheep.

Comm. Cremer: I heard they going to guys’ ranches, is what I heard.

Comm. Buchanan: But guess what, who get purview over wildlife? There it is. It’s back to the basics.

Comm. Smith: Well, to some extent. However, we don’t manage everybody’s land, we don’t manage DHHL’s land. We can’t tell them what to do with their sheep.

Comm. Buchanan: But they’re using this exemption, they’re using your exemption, in order to now herd animals.

Comm. Smith: We're giving them a permit to herd. You know, if land owners come to us and say, "We have land management concerns, we want to accomplish something on our land relative to wildlife, we need a wildlife control permit," we'll check out the situation, we consider it very carefully, and then we generally issue permits. We don't want to really restrict land owners as to what they can do with their land. We want to allow them to do reasonable things on their land, and I don't really feel like we have either the authority or the obligation to tell people what they have to do on their land. I don't want to be "Hey, the government, hey, we're going to control everything you do on your land," whether it's private land owner or another government agency. So if they come to us with a reasonable request for how they want to manage their land, then we're going to try to accommodate that. But we do consider carefully.

Comm. Buchanan: So you already know that aerial shooting and aerial herding and anything by helicopter is highly contentious to this commission. So with that, instead of having maybe one check box, maybe get five check boxes, to define what is reasonable. So, your definition of reasonable might not be my definition of reasonable, or this commission's word of reasonable. Just knowing that there are other, at least two or three really highly contentious management tools that you can approve of, maybe we can start there. That's all I saying, we can start there. thank you.

Chair Sabati: Thank you. Nancy?

Comm. Timko: You know, my priorities were the communication—that's improved greatly—and then access to public hunting areas and engaging the different hunting groups with projects that you need help working on, within...

Comm. Buchanan: I found this in an old file, might be helpful to you, because during 2012 and 2013, we were trying to help to organize the Big Island hunters, and Joey knows, he was there, but... yeah, I'm not going to add anything to the list right now, except to say that we going to do that. But I think you guys can tell already that I'm a process person, and I feel that when you, when it comes to legality and law, if it's not written, it doesn't exist. And so I hope this commission can be more proactive in doing actual stuff to help the Department by doing rule-making and adding in to process, so the continual longstanding problems we get about communication and all this can work to get better. And that's it. I just like, I thank Dave, that he's reporting to everything and that his staff is now communicating with us, I appreciate that. That's it, Chair. Next.

Comm. Cremer: I can add something. I apologize, sorry. We talked about a rule change, we talked about some rule change stuff, and he said the process usually takes up to seven years to make rule changes and, you know...

Comm. Smith: No, That's just if you continue to talk about it for six years, then it'll take you seven. But if you just go in for some simple thing, it's not going to take that long. But we do have to do public meetings, public hearing, we've got to go to the board...

Jason Omick: Sometimes it may be easier to do it island by island, dealing with certain topics—

Comm. Smith: —small pieces—

Comm. Cremer: Well, of course, like we discuss, every island should have one different game management plan, because every island is different as far as bag limits and what you can take and what you cannot take, but...

Comm. Smith: If you make small changes instead of trying to go global, like “Oh hey, they're opening up the road, is there a chance?” you know, “Let's throw everything we ever wanted in here!” that's going to take a long time. But if you want to just like, say, do just one simple thing, I don't know if it's simple, but say, say you just want to change calibers or something, it's like “Hey, how come we can't hunt with .22 magnums,” or .22's or whatever, you know, just to use an example—and just go do that, you know, or a couple of small things, instead of saying “Oh, let's talk about the numbers of dogs you can use, and let's talk about all this other stuff,” you know, you start throwing all these complicated things in there and then there's a lot of disagreement amongst the hunting community. So “Hey, let's limit it to 3 dogs.” “Well, we like use 12 dogs.” “Well...” you know? A lot of it is just within the hunting community, so if the commission and, you know, the commissioners working with our staff on each island can kind of do all that work on the island, so that by the time it comes up to the commission, you have a recommendation that's been vetted, then the commissioners can vet it statewide, then by that time we've put in some recommendation for a rule change, you've got it, you've already vetted it somewhat, instead of everybody throwing all kinds of stuff in the pot, you know, we've got to talk about it, and it goes on and on. And so, that's really the, it's been more the process that takes, that makes it take so long, because we're using that whole public meeting process to vet a lot of that stuff, whereas if we could vet it more closely with the hunting community on the island, with the commissioners, with the staff, get those things worked out before

we go to out to the public, by the time you go to the public meetings everybody's kind of like "Good, we talked about this, we're good." Then it's going to be a lot quicker.

Comm. Cremer: The big problem is, we discussed, is the anti's will be at that community meeting.

Comm. Smith: Yeah. It's your guys' job. Talk to everyone. There's always going to be somebody that's going to come and disagree, right? So there's always going to be some disagreement, and that's fine. But the, you're seeing our challenge, right? How do you get to everybody? How do you make sure that people have input, so that by that time you go to that public meeting everybody shows up and goes "No, we're pretty good, we've talked about this, we're good." And doing that, that work up front instead of using that public meeting, which isn't really that good a venue for doing that kind of stuff... Well, it's just, you know, when you get into a big venue and then people get excited and they show up with everybody right and they're all, they're not there to listen, right? They're not there to talk, they're just there to talk at you, not listen. And so having those conversations in smaller groups where you guys can work it out, and by the time, and then using this commission "Eh, we like," you know—the commission can start to say "You know, we talked with our people, we're—everybody on Oahu's in agreement, we want to limit it to three dogs," or, I'm just making this up, but... you know, then the commission can kind of go "Hey, we talked to our people and they want six or whatever, we can work it out here" and then by that time you go out to the public meeting, you've got that thing worked out kind of already, right? And you always can have somebody come out of left field and say "Hey, you guys never talked to me," but at least you're a lot closer, right?

Comm. Buchanan: So Administrator, can you explain to this commission that there's another option, too, for rule changes other than the public agency-initiated process?

Comm. Smith: The legislature can change the rules.

Comm. Buchanan: Can you explain to us how that works?

Comm. Smith: I'm not really familiar with the process, other than the legislature can make rule changes. And so you'd have to go to your legislature, you'd have to get a bill, the bill would have to be, you know, get through the entire legislature. That's not generally a very popular way to do it with the agencies, because we don't like stuff just handed to us and it's also very

difficult with the legislature, because if there's any, you know, same kind of thing, if there's any dissent, legislators don't usually want to touch it, so that bill's just going to die, so I would not recommend that as a way to go. But that would be a last-ditch effort if you think there's something really important that the agency won't, isn't supporting, and yet you think you have widespread public support for, you could try that other route of going to the legislature, but that would—I don't think that's the preferred option.

Comm. Buchanan: That might've, that's kind of like us. So, you know, legislators said "You know what, my constituents grumbling, we're going to create this commission," and they shove it down their throat. So, DLNR doesn't really want to be housing all these different groups that have special interests, and how they kill that is they don't fund you. So the leg passes a bill that says "DLNR, you're going to have an advisory commission, going talk about hunting and using land, and by the way, I'm not going to give you any more money or any more staff," but in this case, they did. So was important enough for the bill, but just to show you that there's two processes, that process which goes through all public hearing and everything and the process where, the shove down process, that the leg says "You know what? Yeah, you guys going to do this," so. Just so you guys know that that's available as another tool in the toolbox.

Chair Sabati: Can I ask a question? Is this, I need clarification, because I'm a little confused, because I don't want to go back home—my phone's going to be ringing like crazy—so you saying the Big Island Game Management Plan is no good, we have to contract somebody to...?

Comm. Smith: I'm not saying that, I'm just saying the process was wrong. We'll have to go back and look at that plan, and see. But they, it's just an example of a lack of capacity, and what I'm saying is, if we were to, if we want to get things like that done, I would hire a planner, a professional planner. Don't just hire some hunter with time on his hands who's going to put this thing together and drop it in our lap, because then it's like "Wow, well, now we've got all this work to do and we don't have the capacity to do it." Hire a planner to take the thing all the way through and get it done. That's what I'm saying. so what you have right now is what I would, might call a working draft, and you would hire a real planner to come in, pick that thing up, instead of—

Chair Sabati: You got to understand my frustration, because this is the first time we're hearing it over ten years, nobody told me nothing, all we were told is that

it's sitting in the office. If somebody had come back and told us we could've been working towards that.

Comm. Smith: Sorry, well. I'm trying to work out some of these things, and certainly the game management plan is not the only one—we've got a bunch of other things, HCP's and some other really complicated planning and compliance things—and I just think that they were not set up properly and they've gone on for years and years. So the game management plan isn't the only thing and, and it's, part of the thing is just how the whole thing was set up, and... I don't really want to go into details, but, believe me... we've done things where it's just not set up for success, and the way to set this thing up for success is to hire a planner to walk the whole thing through and get it done. And if you try to do it with staff, or you try to do it with an RCUH contract, or there's various other things, mechanisms, it may not be the best way to get the thing done. This is just one example of many, game management's not the only one, and—so I'm just trying to advise here how I would do it to move it forward, and so I think, all well-meaning “Oh, we could do it cheaper this way,” but, you know, let's just try to get the funding, spend the money, get it done right. I mean, people get, you know, sticker shock as to how much it costs to do plans sometimes and it is expensive, but you get a finished product, you have—

Chair Sabati: No, I understand where you're coming from, it's just the frustration is why it takes over ten years to find out something.

Comm. Smith: Well that's, we're, yeah, so because I've only been here for a year and a half, but... I'm trying to work this stuff out...

Chair Sabati: Just like that HCP.

Comm. Smith: Well that one is a very complicated, super heavy lift... that's the other thing, you know—

Chair Sabati: I've got the PDF, you know, it killed a couple hundred trees with that PDF.

Comm. Smith: —if you ask for the impossible, then don't be surprised if it doesn't get delivered quickly.

Chair Sabati: No, but, the general consensus, is the frustration is “Why so long?”

Comm. Smith: Well, we're willing to work with you. I'll work with you on that, and we'll kind of see where that's heading and try to get that moving forward. And the planning thing in general, and trying to get plans in general. The other

thing is, we're also working on getting forest reserve management plans, and one piece of those, perhaps, could be folding in the game piece into those, so—we have an existing, we have a really good planning bunch with the forestry, our forestry crew, so that might be another way to get some, you know, get the game stuff into the forest management plans, too.

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah, that's actually a good idea.

Jason Omick: Some of these projects are federally funded too, so every year we only have so much money to dedicate to these and we wait for the next year, and it's a big compliance thing, too, and all those things. It just, it is a lot of planning like he was saying, so we just can do a certain amount each year.

Comm. Buchanan: But if you put the community component in there, then the community advocates for monies and spending's outside through other organizations with specific, you know, stuff, like the hunting and the wildlife protection and stuff like that. We could also contribute to making funds and matching and you can expand on your, on your plans, so. I think that's a good concept to roll around. And we can add all of that as action items on number eight when we get there, for agenda items and direction to staff.

ITEM 7. Update and suggestions for improving the hunter check station data collection system, including hunter effort and success data statewide.

Shaya Honarvar: So it's about data collection, how we collect data right now, and how we can make it better. The discussion was started last GMAC meeting and multiple people mentioned the importance of accurate data collection. So this is just to start a conversation about what can we do to make the data collection better, because we all know how it is now, and what it means to not have good data.

Comm. Cremer: I think what was discussed with the online, the text message thing would be one of the best, because, like I said, if one guy hunting here consistently going to an area and is going to be pulling out big animals, and plenty people they hunt for trophy—for me I hunt for meat—but when you start showing that you catching nice and beautiful animals in your certain area, people start to invade your area which they never like come to, you know what I mean. So plenty guys, they don't want to sign out, especially the younger generation because they don't realize what the data helps you, as far as a hunter. So, with the technology of a text message or

however, go online and register what you caught, that will be one great thing, I think, for show what you get as far as game. I'm not sure if going to totally get to perfection because some people don't care. But the people that do care will go ahead and do it. I know I sign out everytime, because I know how important it is, because I know we need a game management plan, and without that data, we're not going to be able to have a sustaining population in our game management areas. Because we don't have that counts, we don't know how much game mammals get in Kokee. I guess that's black-tailed, they'll never have an accurate count, know what I mean, they can say "Oh, last year had one good population, we had good black-tail count come out." This year, bare minimum. How much deer—five deer?—all season.

Shaya Honarvar: Personally, I think before employing something like that—and I obviously like your idea—it would be important to check or to communicate with everyone about it and see how people, how hunters feel about it. So, I don't know if you guys are aware of it, there is a hunting informational survey online right now, and one of the questions is exactly that: "if we create an app for your phone and it's also available, obviously, online, if you use the computer, would you use that? would that be useful to you?" And I've had about five hundred people now that have replied, and I would say that 90% of them say yes, it's a good idea, but that's only five hundred people, and the five hundred or so people are represented from Oahu and the Big Island. I have communicated with a couple of companies and talked to them about it, to see how much such thing would cost and what it entails, how long it takes, so I'm gathering information about it. But if there are other ideas or other things that we'd like to...

Comm. Cremer: I'll put it up for my community. I can add to that.

Chair Sabati: Like, when I hunt in some other states, it's a call-in, it's not a text, it's not an app, you just... phone call, direct, right to the office, voice mail, I was, you know—and when you get your permit tag, it gives you instructions: "Call this number, report what unit, report your catch".

Shaya Honarvar: Is it an automated system?

Chair Sabati: Automated system. There's no check stations. You just call in what you were hunting, and they give you the procedures book. A lot of states that I've been to, you just call in.

Comm. Smith: I was at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in September back in Utah, and I was talking to Lole Ballard from Timman's

group, and they set up a lot of these computerized systems, and I was talking to him about specifics about setting up an app-type system where you could check-in check-out using a phone, and so the certain, the technology's certainly there, it'd just be a matter of what it would cost to build it, how much to maintain it and stuff. But one of the nice things about those systems, an app-based system, is then you could've just feed all that information into a database on a server and, you know, guys wouldn't have to go out and check, pick up check forms come back and then hand stuff in, you know. So trying to make it as easy as possible both for the users and also for the agency, and be able to collect data and have it all downloaded. So that would be kind of the gold standard, and if we could figure out how to do that with a call-in, and/or an app, but I'm thinking maybe it, you know, a phone-type app might be a good way to go, and maybe there can be an alternative for people that can't do that. But that would be a nice thing, for the commissioners to go back to your communities on each island and start to float the idea. Like the concept that I had was, you know, instead of a check station, you'd have a sign with a QR code or something on it, you know, and you'd go "Beep!" and it'd go "Check in or check out?" "Check in." Okay, fine, and when you come back "Beep!" And when you're done, and it says "Check in or check out?" "Check out." "How, what type of animals?" "Pigs." "How many?" "One, male," boom, you know, pau. And then even if you're out of cell phone range, the next time you get into range it'll upload, that goes all automatically into a database and gets stored on a server, all that data's available and that's just one example, it could work different ways. But if we could look at something like that, it would be a lot easier and then it would be more anonymity right, because same thing, guys don't want to check in and show that they're catching animals in an area and all that. So if you could go up to your community and find out what would a good system look like, and maybe, and we can continue this discussion, but something, you know, we want something that people would use, something that would be easier and better than what we have now.

Shaya Honarvar: I think that there should be some incentive in there for the hunters to use it as well, other than just providing data and having us use the data. And one of the incentives may be that they can go back and see what they have hunted in the past, months or years, and where exactly, and that they only have access to that, these types of apps do that anyway. So, maybe you wanted to point that out to the hunters.

Comm. Cremer: I do that with one calendar. I probably, probably about ten years of calendars...and knowing where and how much, where the pigs was fat, and—

Comm. Smith: All in your back pocket.

Comm. Cremer: Most of the time deer season I get Lindsey or somebody at the check station because they, the biologists like know how much the population is, they try ask for you to bring the liver or intestines for they can see what's going on in the animal, they measure the horns, look at what, what they can do for improved fee.

Comm. Ruidas: So some guys not reporting their catch? I thought that was a law, to report?

Comm. Cremer: Oh, it is.

Comm. Smith: We did a survey some years back, I think you're lucky if you get fifty percent reporting.

Comm. Ruidas: So where does that lie, in the enforcement part?

Andrew Choy, Hunter Education Program Manager: Sorry, can I add something?

Andrew Choy: Andrew Choy, from Hunter Education. I'm here as staff, but just from personal experience, another dimension to it is when you have like a third party doing the check-in check-out. So at Kuaokala, I know the information is there, the check-in sheets, and they're generally pretty good about entry, I try to be up there every weekend, and they'll just wave us out, and they tell us "Oh, you don't need to check out". That's another dimension too, aside from just the staff side on checking, is if you're going through a third party like the Air Force, and they're not incentivized to do the check-in, right, they're just, they're more security, so it's problematic for data collection, and for me, as a hunter, it's problematic, too. It shows that there's not value placed on what we're doing, whether it's, I guess in that case, it's on the Air Force side...

Comm. Smith: I think it's an opportunity for the commission to show leadership within their community, which is like, "Hey, you guys, we need to check in and check out, it's important for us to have this data, you know?" I mean "The state's going to have a real hard time coming up with a plan if we have no idea how many guys are hunting, no idea how many animals are being taken, no idea what the hunter rate of success is," and so it's hard to make a plan when you don't know what's going on.

Comm. Timko: So, this goes to Andrew, so this would actually be education for the public, so when they're taking hunter education, can that be stressed within the curriculum for hunter education of why they're checking in and checking out and what that data's being used for?

Andrew Choy: Yes, absolutely, it's in this rule, and it's definitely covered in our rules and regulation's section. I would imagine that your issue isn't going to be with all the new hunters, though, it's probably going to be with the seasoned hunters. But absolutely, and just kind of, I guess, dove-tailing with that, as Josiah mentioned earlier, the invitation's open to any of the commissioners to be present at our classes. You know, it's not a big percentage that we certify, it's about 2,000 every year, but, you know, if we're talking about leveraging that population into the hunting community, into your lobbying efforts and whatever you have, that's a great gateway to prevent a lot of these people from falling though, you know. I don't know what the statistics are as far as the lag time between someone getting certified and then someone buying a hunting license, but I think by and large it's several years, and that's a number of issues: it's access, it's information, whatever it is. We can stress that, absolutely, and you know, I think just more outreach, like Josiah and Nancy said, it's really important.

Chair Sabati: Yes, I'd like to add to that. So, you know, this data collection and game management plan goes hand-in-hand. If I go to Alaska, at the end of the season I have to mail in a card or call in if I harvested or not, and here in this state, it's a big part of their game management plan, so if you don't turn in your information, they don't know if you caught, they might close the season, you know, so it's really important. Even if, like, you want to go to Missouri, it's so rural, there's no check-in stations, you check, catch an animal, you get 24 hours to phone it in, and if you get caught, you in big trouble. But we just got to change with the times, and I think the commission can help with that, go back out to the communities and explain why is so important. Because it also shows that the hunting area's being used, and I think all the valid points are made.

Comm. Jury: I think, yes, maybe understanding again the economy, being transparent, so when we go to our respective communities the message is clear across, of what is the end user doing with this data, you know, so that way we are all not having any different explanations and then coming back with something totally, you know...It is coming from the state and it is by law, but just like that, what is the end user approach. And I do also think, I love the app idea, I love making it quick. The only thing I can foresee on Oahu

is that, if I go hunting, and then you show up an hour later, and maybe I got dropped off, how he know I'm in the mountain, you know? And then we can next, you know, maybe get one confrontation, because he know now he behind me or maybe I'm two other guys or—something to look forward to as well with creating this program is, you know, or if you going to do them, how you going to know there's five hikers ahead of me or something like that, you know?

Chair Sabati: I'd like to add to that. That's what they're doing at PTA. They have this iSportsman app that you have to check in. PTA's more restrictive because it's a federal—so, you check in on the app, and then you say, and you know, because the areas are pretty confined, they only allow so many people per unit. So you check in to a unit, and they'll let you know if slots are available, if not, you can't check in. The moment one person checks out, the slot opens, another hunter can come in. So, the iSportsman one done by PTA's real specific, you check in on a phone, you hunt, you give them your report, and you check out, so that's something you might want to look at, is... Then it's just, that is the big jump because it's limited per unit, so at midnight, everybody's like on a phone ready to rock, you know? And then the only negative that I've heard from that is from old school guys who don't have iPhones, they're stuck with flip phones and what have you, and don't wanna go to the new technology, but it is what it is. But iSportsman might be something to look at because it'll tell you who's in and who, you know, how many slots are open, so you would know if somebody's in your, hunting in there or not.

Comm. Cremer: Going back to out of state. I know Alaska on their moose hunts and their caribou hunts, you shoot something, you tag them, you got to put a GPS mark on them, coordinates, and you got to report that, too, within 24 hours.

Chair Sabati: Well, that depends where you hunt, some places you have to some places you don't. They're big on that waste law, you got to get all the meat out before you take out your trophy, you leave any meat behind, you in violation, and I think that's something that Hawaii needs to look at too, down the line.

Comm. Buchanan: Mr. Chair, this is good discussion, and I like to take notes and I came up with at least seven different areas, so a simple discussion can be turned somewhat complex, because you get so many things going on, and for me the number one was "Why is DLNR asking me to report what I doing?" So number one is, I don't know why, I mean, I know why, but my

neighbor don't know why, because, number one, that's how they get money, that's how they monitoring density and population assessment etc... but reporting is important, but for me on Molokai right now, you know, nobody's inclined to report because we have no enforcement. But for me, I would rather pound the legislature for money to support one population count, so I have real baseline scientific data that can be—then I'll go and say from here I will monitor, I'm going register every buck I throw out of there and all this kind of stuff. It's really hard because we've never had the type of scientific baseline gathering, but I can support, you know, why just, you guys need to do that. And I feel really bad about the hunter education guys, because I don't know how hard it is to change your curriculum, but you know it needs to change and incorporate that kind of stuff, so I hope you can do that. But the quality control part, that's another thing about quality control, so again that's another problem for you, the quality control of who's collecting your data, is your data being collected properly. All the app stuff is good, but please don't forget the old school guys that no own iPhone, I don't own iPhone, you know, so it'll be hard for me.

Chair Sabati: The call-in, call-in is an option.

Comm. Buchanan: And you know, Josiah touched on that, too, the earlier part about “Nobody know why you're collecting this data.” And Pohakuloa, and it's nice that they get all this money, PTA, it's nice. “You only get 300 acres, I sorry, I can only have two hunters inside here, and until they check out, you know.” So all this kind stuff is a lot bigger than what you think it is and I really like that.

Comm. Smith: I mean one thing would be, maybe the hunters say “Hey, you know what, we recommend you guys just don't collect from hunter check stations, we don't have hunter check stations, we don't need them.” Well you know, I don't care. It's just more work for us, you know, so if we don't need to do that—

Comm. Buchanan: No, but if it's important, so if you going to turn the, if part of the state action plan is to give hunter check-in station because that's the only tool you have, here we go with tools again, that's the only tool you get in your toolbox in order to account for stuff that you have to justify, you've got to sit down at the end of the day and write your report, then that's important, because otherwise I'm not going to get that \$50,000 from Pittman Robertson, in order to trickle down to my people on the ground, so just trying to convey, at least first to these commission members, why is that

important, and then we can, in turn when guys go to Cremer and grumble he can tell them “this why important, you gotta do this.”

Comm. Smith: Well quite frankly, the question might be the university is doing research on pig density and, and movement and, maybe that’s a better thing to put money into than collecting check station data because it doesn’t...So, I know Melissa Price from the university and, and her grad student is working on...

Comm. Cremer: I beg to differ.

Comm. Smith: So. Well I’m just throwing out examples, I’m just saying! I’m not making a recommendation, I’m just saying, maybe it’s better to hire, to get grad students to do research, than for us to go out and pick up check stations to every—I’m just saying, I’m not saying, that’s not a recommendation, I’m just saying in the course of talking about this, that’s a good question, why are you doing this, and what information does it give you, and what do you do with that information? And there should be a good reason to do it, otherwise we’re wasting our time, so let’s make sure we’re doing it for the right reason.

Comm. Cremer: There’s many reasons for the check-in and check-out. Enforcement, safety...

Comm. Smith: Yes. I agree with you, I’m not recommending that we get rid of it. I’m just saying if, you know, the commission—you’re saying you have people telling you “Hey, how come I’ve got to check in and check out...”. I mean, obviously we think it’s worthwhile because, you know, by law you have to do it. But if in the course of your discussions with the hunting community we should find out all this stuff, let’s tease out all these questions like why are we doing this, if you don’t know the answer come back to us, talk to our guys, “Hey, how come you guys do this, what do you do with this information, why is it important to you, why do we have to do this?” And then take that back to your community. So you guys are like a conduit, right? We can’t talk to seven hundred hunters on our island, right, but it’s nice if we can talk to one person or two people or something, and then you guys are the conduit to get out into the community, right?

Shaya Honarvar: From a scientific point of view it’s important to monitor trends, whether it’s hunting, hunter trends, or game mammals or game bird trends, like how many animals are you getting out over the years, not exactly the numbers, but the trends, are they going up, going down, what’s happening per hunting unit, etc...

Chair Sabati: So, all the information from all the previous years, you're talking trends and you got all this information from long ago, you know, because it's a requirement, so what's been done with that information?

Shaya Honarvar: In the past fourteen months that I have been here, I have been collecting the data and getting it out from the different districts and putting them all together, but it takes time, you know. Over the years, if 100% of the hunters report their harvest versus 50% versus 25% it matters, but it doesn't matter when you look at trends over a decade, right? So, for example, I started looking at the game bird harvest data coming out of Mauna Kea unit for the past 30 years, and there are, increasing and decreasing number of harvested animals but over the 30 + years the harvest numbers (animals per hunter trips harvested) are similar, so those type of things, that's where the data becomes important.

Chair Sabati: So what, what about the areas that public hunting is permitted? There's no check station, no data's collected like, like on one of the NARS.

Joey Mello: We're not getting the data basically, and we just interpret, on the Big Island, and there's a point there, it was running through my head so I almost missed what you said, but we told people in the Hunter Ed class and when we're doing—this is East Hawaii—and when people call, if there's no, if there's no check station in the area, then the requirement is moot, right, we can't enforce what's not there. But the answer to your question would be, so we don't get data on that, but we can't have check stations at every outlet, especially for us in East Hawaii. We have, we might have you know a dozen ways to get in and out of one any particular place people are near...

Chair Sabati: No I understand that part, that's why it's good to look at other options for recording all this data.

Joey Mello: And the interesting thing is on Hawaii island we have two different methods, and it was developed in discussion with hunters. On the west side, most of the areas have one or two accesses, so they have a sign-in. On the east side, we still use a little piece of, half sheet of paper, and we put them in the boxes and you pick it up, and sign it. Hunters ask they can either leave it in the box, they can take it with them on the person, they can leave it on the dash of their truck, they can do, as long as they take it with them and they turn it in at the end of the day. And then in the middle of the island, on the saddle, we kept kind of a joint thing because people can go either way, and the curious thing that's been going through my

mind is that was developed by talking with the hunters what they want during the heyday of the big hunters of Hawaii, we had big discussions. They wanted the East Hawaii just stay the way it was, that was, what, not four, five years later in a meeting with the same group, okay, my dear friends, I got blasted by yours and my good buddy and everybody there rostered up and backed him up, "it was inefficient, we didn't know what we were doing," and it was almost humorous for me, because it came from that group. And so as time evolves we start looking, and sort of interesting to hear the discussion going again or on that, but for us we developed the method based on what the hunters wanted, what was easiest for them. And for the record I disagree with the safety thing. We have no way of knowing whether you're at the mountain or not when the guy takes the field form with him. Safety to me, about you telling your friends your family your wife where you are. We're not responsible for your safety, and I like to tell our hunters, I really could give a darn about your safety, not true, kay? What I'm saying is revolving the field form, the field form is for data, kay? The field form is not to protect you, that's what 911 is for. Don't get me wrong, I'm the guy up there at 2:30 in the morning opening the gate for 911 when they call, or allowing them to cut the lock, I'm the guy that Steve Bergfeld calls to go up there and do that, so I do care about you getting lost, but we've got to be careful about trying to be, trying to make our hunter check in forms being responsible for you safety.

Chair Sabati: —my information wasn't saying that you guys were responsible for safety. It makes it safer for me if I sign in. Yes, not putting safety on you guys. It makes it better for me, because if I can tell my wife I'm going to hunt in Unit C, but I go there and somebody still there, and now I go blew hole inside intake and my car's out of site now, versus them going to another trail, or what they going to do, versus looking at the check station and I signed in...

Joey Mello: Thank you, I understand now, I totally misunderstood that.

**** TEN MINUTE BREAK****

Chair Sabati: OKay, I'd like to call the meeting back to order.

ITEM 8. Set future meeting schedule and potential Agenda items.

Comm. Cremer: I'd like to open with a suggestion that we talk about meetings throughout the state on every island if possible. I think it would cost, the money to bring staff there just the same as us going. And we can have site visits, so

people can understand, other commissioners can understand where and what we're talking about, and not just picture it in our head.

Comm. Buchanan: Oh, I like that. In fact, I think Administrator had said that earlier, in the last meeting, too.

Comm. Smith: Yeah, it might be worth it. It's just a matter of cost-benefit on the time investment. But, like you say, people are flying in from all the islands anyway, so I don't see why you couldn't do that. But I would work with Shaya on that, managing the budget, if the budget supports it, then I don't have a problem with it, I think it'd be good.

Comm. Buchanan: So does that need to be an agenda item now, or we can just, does it have to be on the agenda for next agenda? No? No. Okay.

Comm. Cremer: I just think the community and the hunting community would have an opportunity to sort of see what this commission is about, to not only hear it in the ear, and not see how the table works and how we communicate with staff and amongst ourselves, and our general plan and what we, our goals are. I think it's really important.

Comm. Smith: Yeah, so maybe the commissioners could find out venues on each island that you think would be appropriate and then we can try and figure out scheduling meetings, and what you'd want to do on—you know, a lot of it's like... site visits and all that, trying to organize all that, could be quite a use of time, too, so I'd just figure out what would be the most efficient use of time to get stuff done—what you want to do, do you want to meet, do you want go site visit, what? It just gets more complicated the more stuff you throw in there, is all.

Shaya Honarvar: So that we can have site visit and meeting on that island where the site visit is, no?

Comm. Smith: Yeah, but then you're getting into a two day meeting, and then you've got to—how much do you spend on meetings, you know? How much of your staff time do you want doing meetings and how much do you want them out there working? So, it's just a cost-benefit analysis on what you want to accomplish here. But, yeah, I don't know why you couldn't just go to another island of a meeting if we think that's valuable. I mean, otherwise we're already perceived as being, you know, Oahu-centric, right?

Comm. Cremer: The site visit would be good, but I definitely think that every island meeting is important.

Comm. Smith: Yes, maybe you start with every island, and the site visit maybe, I mean that's nice and everything, or maybe we can do that once a year, or something like that, we just all go out for a day, rather than trying to do it every meeting.

Comm. Buchanan: If we all agree that that's a great idea, we know that, as commissioners, we're going to have to be the hosts, okay? So, if you're going to host one meeting, then you're going to host that meeting, so. On Molokai when I hosted the game, not the game, the Marine and Coastal Zone Advisory Council, right? They paid their way to Molokai, but I set up the site visit, I found the ground transportation, I provided them food, yeah, from my community members, and I basically went and take care of them, and if they had to stay overnight, they paid for their own accommodations, but again we fed them dinner, so. That's what I did for my council when they came to Molokai. I took them Mo'omomi, we look at all the shearwater, you know, all the marine and coastal stuff, because we're trying to push the Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area through. So I'm willing to do that for this commission as well, you know, but just with the understanding—and yeah, I would love if we came here and we had time today that we all go Waianae and go 'Look, where the Board of Water Supply is? What they doing there?' So, that would've been helpful for me, you know?

Chair Sabati: Okay. Anybody else like to add? We all in agreement?

Comm. Smith: So, maybe we can make it where the commissioners are hosts on their island and they figure out all the logistics and all that kind of thing so we don't have to task the staff with that too much, you know.

Comm. Buchanan: Yes. And we can work with staff. Kay, that's fine, I'm down for that.

Comm. Smith: Yes, I just, we're already short-handed, so I don't want to task our staff with too much, you know, we don't want to have too much, like, meeting logistics that we have to deal with.

James Cogswell: Yes, just one comment on that, I think to limit it to the field. I agree on each island, sure, that that's awesome and we can do that with the budget that we have, probably, but the field trip, I would limit that, at least in this first year, to maybe one or two of the big items. Like each island, each island does not have to try to plan a field trip and two day stay, because that's, that's going to be...

Chair Sabati: No, we understand that. We're just looking at the priority areas.

Unk: What's the status of our commissioner for Maui?

Shaya Honarvar: So I have been in touch with him over email and unfortunately in the past, for the past two meetings, and now also this meeting, he couldn't join because of personal reasons. But he said to say sorry that he couldn't join, and I have sent him the oath of office, to sign. I have not received it back yet from him. And he also needs to do the ethics training, and I suggested certain dates but 'til now I don't believe that he has done the ethics training yet.

Chair Sabati: Okay, I'll follow up on that.

Comm. Ruidas: And, Maui, you know, living on Lanai, I know Maui has plenty of problems also.

Shane DeMattos: Yeah, so both Jon and I have been in contact with him, but it's not our place to do that. We have been, talking to him about the issues on Maui, what worries he has, and stuff like that, so we have been in pseudo-communication with him.

Chair Sabati: And is he talking to you guys on a commission level or is he talking to you...

Shane DeMattos: Right now, we cannot meet because I don't think he is a commissioner at this point in time.

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah, Chair, as part of Maui Nui, I would appreciate you having a conversation with him, because leaving that big blank is not helpful to his community, so.

Chair Sabati: Anybody else'd like to add future agenda items?

Comm. Cremer: Yes, I'd like to put on the agenda the possibility of having an apprenticeship on this program. I know it's been asked with legislature, but I don't think the way they write it is suitable and we discussed that, one is, the guy's got to be—it can't be an ongoing thing like how they wrote them, where I can continue getting one apprenticeship permit, that's one of the things was a downfall. The other thing was, the mentor cannot be somebody I feel that just got his license this year and hunted three or four times and I'm going to be his mentor now, Because I like go hunting, he come hunting with me. The mentor should be qualified when we, however, will make the rules. I think it's important that we get an apprenticeship program as far as hunting and gathering, because a lot of kids, they scared to even go take the test, because—and there's a lot of

kids that want to go, but they don't have nobody to go with, know what I mean, and I know there's people that is willing to bring kids, but they not going to bring them in the field because they cannot do anything anyway without a license with the state law, you know what I mean? So, I sure as heck not going to bring somebody in the field that doesn't have a license and let them touch game and teach them, show them how to skin a pig, how to approach a pig, or how I'm gonna, you know? Just basically the whole thing. How I grew up, we could go with my father without a license, you know what I mean, in the 70's, 60's, you know what I mean, we go along, tag along, and then, at a certain time, at ten, you could get a license really, without even taking a test. But it was a little bit more practical, you know what I mean, but I understand we need a hunter's safety course, and maybe the mentor needs to go get some training, or something, but I just feel that it's really important, is one thing. One other thing is, as a commission we should start trying to work on getting a wanton waste bill approved. I think planning game getting wasted especially when come tournament times guys just like kill for the sake of catching own pig for put on his cage. I just I think that, it's two of the things outside of my community I feel is a statewide issue.

Chair Sabati: Thank you. Anybody else?

Unk: From the first meeting you asked Jim about itemized expenditures for game animals, as, you know, when you were talking about the mongoose, what you call them, spending money on a mongoose when, you know...in the Wildlife Revolving Fund report?

Comm. Smith: We got a legislative report we can give you, for Wildlife Revolving Fund. As soon as it gets published. They'll be posting the one on the website here pretty soon for '17. It'll be on the DLNR end, and we're hoping to have a link on the DOFAW site as well.

Chair Sabati: Okay.

Comm. Smith: It's a good report.

Chair Sabati: Any other items you'd like to add, to put on to agenda?

Comm. Buchanan: I have, I think this commissioner from Kauai's suggestions is two good ones to put on the agenda, also. I'm in support of that, to have a discussion about an apprenticeship program, a discussion about wanton waste law, that might, you know, takes action on those. And then, thank you for submitting the budget. And then other potential agenda items, if this

commission feels appropriate, would be, if, I guess if we could ask staff—and I use that staff broadly, Shaya, you would have to find appropriate staff—if we can have a report or a follow up if any discussion was initiated with the Board of Water Supply on the Waianae project. So, we don't want to just come here and talk story, and then things fall off the table and then like ten years of no game management plan, okay? So, if it's an action item, then we need a report on it at the next agenda. If any staff from DOFAW went and talk to Board of Water Supply, and if the Chair for Water Supply or whoever came back and said "No, I no like you, and I'm not going to talk to you," then you need to let me know that so I can contact my legislature and tell them "go see Kirk, tell him, get his guys on the stick," or whatever. And then one other issue, which is one I feel, I heard is a big issue, and I was hoping that we, this commission as a whole could... it'd be nice ask staff to reconvene the Hawaii Island Game Management Plan. So because there was a lot of work that got initiated somewhere in space and time, to reconvene that is to pick up where you left off, not to start from scratch, not to go hire another consulter at this point but, and maybe that is... but to ask staff to reconvene the Hawaii Island Game Management Plan. So put it back on everybody's radar, Jim, come back and say "Okay, this is where we are currently with this," you know, "give plenty to us, whatever, whoever, we're not going to point fingers at who we feel—we don't care at this point, but how we going to move forward?"

James Cogswell: Yes, it's with the working group for review, so. The working group's late, so the working group needs to get back.

Comm. Buchanan: Is Chair part of that working group?

James Cogswell: Yes.

Comm. Buchanan: so my discussion is moot, then, you've already reconvened a working group. Okay, how about we have a report then on the agenda on your progress thus far? That would be nice. So progress on the working groups with the Game Management Plan for Hawaii Island.

Chair Sabati: My question is, is this the county-level game management plan, or is it the state... county?

James Cogswell: County.

Chair Sabati: County level, yes? Meaning, is the county's GMAC plan, or is it going to be...

James Cogswell: Well, it's for Hawaii County, so...

Chair Sabati: Okay, okay.

James Cogswell: Yes, but it's not the county GMAC plan. It's DOFAW/DLNR plan for Hawaii.

Chair Sabati: Okay. Because I know the GMAC county stuff, they do stuff themselves.

Comm. Buchanan: And then, Mr. Chair, if staff could, at the next meeting or a subsequent meeting after that, have someone who can clearly convey the aerial shooting policy within the State of Hawaii. And then one more thing is discussion of potentially convening a group from this commission to do strategic outreach for legislators, to educate our legislators on the gaps we're finding as a commission. There'll be action on that. And the rest of the things that I heard was issues for people, like the shelters on Kauai. All of that kind of stuff can probably be worked on, Commissioner Cremer, with your respective biologists...

Comm. Cremer: Yes.

Comm. Buchanan: ...continuing access issues on Oahu and Kauai, and landlocks. So, you know, all of that kind of stuff is within DLNR is the, land management, yeah? So, and then it's, it's getting an abstractor. So when he mean he getting one abstractor, that means a person that is just looking at land period, to be looking like "Oh, look, get this available inventory over here," or "Guess what, get goats, get all this stuff I can hunt," but it's just sitting there, disposable—

Comm. Smith: No, no, no, an abstractor is someone that goes and looks at the legal documents and tries to figure out land dispositions and that kinda stuff...

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, so who's looking at potential... the bill says that, for land replacement—so if NARS is taking lands out of inventory for hunting, what, who's looking at replacing that land? Who is it?

Comm. Smith: Well, we manage our whole land inventory.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. That's what they're getting at.

Comm. Smith: Right, we're not looking at necessarily replacing—

Comm. Buchanan: So we need a little bit more focus—

Comm. Smith: —I mean, if you want to do the math, we're ahead on Oahu, I can tell you substantially. But we don't necessarily do math. Like, we don't say "Well, we'll only take this out if we can replace that," so...

Comm. Buchanan: Well, you know, I pity the Big Island guys too, because, you get one big island, but you also own all of Mauna Loa, this all federal Park Service, and then all of Mauna Kea is what it is, so you get really large tracts of land, so I think the problem is more prevalent there about that exchange, you know.

Comm. Smith: But we manage land according to resources on it, it's not necessarily a quid pro quo trade off. And just because things have been some way for a long time doesn't mean they'll be that way forever, so I'm just saying that as a...

Comm. Buchanan: Yeah, but when you landlock to—in order for somebody to work on access agreements, MOUs, or whatever they might be, somebody has to be focused and working every day, you know, to try and do that not only for hunting but for all of your projects, all of your acquisition landlock issues. So.

Comm. Smith: Yeah, we do that.

Comm. Cremer: So this same person we talking about would be able to look at land trades like in the situation of Unit A.

Comm. Smith: We do everything.

Comm. Cremer: Okay.

Comm. Smith: We work across the board.

Comm. Cremer: Because I know there is land that we could probably trade that is leased for cattle that could be to one private person that we could trade it only that they could use, and the state really no, have no, DLNR has no resources from it except having a lease up from it, you know what I mean, where we could have, there's no animals on the property for us to hunt, so we can trade that piece of land for parts of Unit A, so we don't have to be worrying about getting our lease.

Comm. Smith: We do that already, it's just a matter of capacity, how much you can do of it, but we're always trying to look at potential... one thing this commission can do is be an advocate for—so sometimes we want to hang on to land, but there's a state law saying we've got to hand over all of our

ag[ricultural] lands, potential ag lands to agriculture, and it goes into grazing, but we're going "Oh, well that could be a hunting area, you know?" So you guys could be a voice where you're saying "Hey, let's not just hand over these lands, let's retain them within DLNR". is having to give up lands for ag, that on our side could be either forestry or, you know, wildlife, game management, whatever, but we're having to give up lands we actually consider to be valuable. And a lot of these quite frankly, I'm looking at more and more accessible areas that are already somewhat disturbed so you don't have a lot of those issues with native ecosystems and threatened & endangered species and they're pretty wide open in terms of what we can do in terms of game management and those are, a lot of those same areas are also, the areas that ag's looking at going "Hey, give us those lands, we can lease them up for grazing," or whatever else, but then that takes them out of the potential hunting inventory. So looking at those opportunities is what I'm doing, you know, and I think that the commission could probably be an advocate for helping us hang on to some of those lands.

Comm. Cremer: Can the commission get that information, though?

Comm. Smith: We can try. We have a hard time getting that information, we're just always scrambling around, and the first thing we see is, we'll see an item on the board agenda "Oh, we're giving all this land up to ag" and we're like "Oh wait, talk to us!" I mean, that's what we do for a living, we chase this stuff all the time, so getting ahead of it is part of the deal. And how do you become part of that conversation, how do we get ahead of it? So we're, it's getting better, we're really working on trying to get into that conversation earlier so we're not just finding out about it when it pops up on a board agenda item, you know? So we're trying to work more proactively with Land Division and with Department of Ag, to get ahead of those things.

Chair Sabati: Well, I think it would be helpful if the commission can get some of that information, and maybe we can assist in some way.

Comm. Smith: Yes.

Chair Sabati: Because this is the first I'm hearing of it, so I think it's important information. We find out about what lands, you know, possibility and on our end you get, probably get some community support, involvement, but if we don't know, you know?

Comm. Smith: I can look for opportunities where the commission can be useful for that.

- Chair Sabati: More than, it's also positive too because it shows the community that you guys are trying. If we don't know, we don't know. So I think it would be a positive thing to let us know.
- Comm. Smith: Yes, that's fine. But what I'm saying is brand new and we're playing catch-up too. It's not like we've been withholding information from you, we don't have the information...
- Chair Sabati: I'm not saying you're withholding, I'm just saying you know, something we're learning, so...
- Comm. Cremer: Would you suggest that we, if we have ideas of things that we think would work to help, that we throw it out to you guys? Lindsey, or Shaya?
- Comm. Smith: Oh, absolutely. Well, that's just a conversation that you have out with your guys on the island, and then you can bring it back here.
- Comm. Buchanan: At the next agenda, if we can have maybe one short, little report from staff on why is hunter check-in stations important to the Department, that would be helpful. And then the bigger picture at some point in time, because I just heard Administrator bring it up, you think you get hard time—they all live in the same house, and the different floors no talk to each other, so that's kind of hard too, because Natural Area Reserve have their own hunting programs, their own management options, but I think that they in their own little silo just from the outside looking in without putting my staff on the spot. The hunters get, especially pig hunters, get the biggest issue with Natural Area Reserve because of the protections and the zero tolerance and the prioritization and management tools within the area. But they're still under wildlife, and even though they're in their own little silo—so somehow in the future we're going to have to bridge all of that complex relationship. I want to understand as a commissioner what is that complex relationship, because, you know why? It affects me. Not only DOFAW affects me, but Natural Area Reserve affects me. They're doing fencing, they're doing fencing, but they're not talking to each other, or else they're talking to each other, but, you know, they're doing their own management and they're doing their own management, but I'm in the middle. I have to understand and I think that should be part of the discussion on the islands but... Shane. If I come and ask you something about NARS, can you respond? No, right? I would have to have a NARS staff representative there.
- Shane De Mattos: But once you understand what the land designations are about, that's going to clear the air, I think, some of the air.

- Comm. Buchanan: But when I ask NARS the same question, then they, they're flighty about it, they're going like "Well, you know, it's not only the pristine areas." I mean, they have beach dunes, they have the point out there, they have marine stuff, they have mountain stuff, so we know, you know—and then I said "Well, they highest priority for protection?" "No, not necessarily." So that's the kind of wishy-washiness is what I'm trying to say is hard.
- Comm. Smith: No, that's not wishy-washy. Their section is native ecosystem protection and management. That is our highest priority. A lot of game mammals are very destructive in those kind of environments and we are not going to manage them for game. There's nothing wishy-washy about that, that's just the way it is. We have a bunch of different land management areas and designations. We don't manage them all for sustainable game.
- Comm. Buchanan: Okay. But maybe if we knew on the map where those are occurring on each island then maybe that would be helpful.
- Comm. Smith: Yes. We have those maps and we're about to roll them out. It shows our top priority conservation zone lands.
- Comm. Buchanan: Okay, then that is what we would be interested in seeing. Just so I know, you know, so if people are asking, then I can say "Oh, you know what, this is why it's got to be this way." Then I can explain.
- Comm. Cremer: But it's hard to explain, commissioner, commissioners, it's hard to explain when NARS take 50,000 acres here and they say they going to manage this to fence them off, and then because they like federal money again, federal grants and all that, they're going to take fifty more thousand acres of whatever, which is our prime... you can shake your head no.
- Comm. Smith: That's not why—we don't go manage land because we want money. We want to manage land a certain way so we try to get funding to do that.
- Chair Sabati: You guys think you guys successful over there?
- Comm. Smith: All I'm saying is that we manage, we try to identify areas and we try to manage the resources that are in that area.
- Comm. Smith: We manage native ecosystems for native ecosystems—
- Comm. Buchanan: We know that.
- Comm. Smith: —we don't manage them for sustainable game.
- Comm. Buchanan: We manage them for the public trust.

Comm. Smith: Right.

Comm. Buchanan: So. The public trust is the end user of why we manage them, and as a two-term commissioner on the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission, spending your money to purchase those ecosystems for protection—

Comm. Smith: Right.

Comm. Buchanan: —I fully understand why that is, but at the same point, I maybe understand more so than others that management actions occur that may be appropriate or inappropriate given the monies from the different parts...

Comm. Smith: I disagree with that.

Comm. Buchanan: And the transparency down to the end user, all of it is transparency. If we do something that is pono, then it's pono, you know? If you doing something that, eeh, it's kinda of...

Comm. Smith: Yeah, but I just can't let that stand here. We're in a public meeting, it's going to be in the agenda, I just can't let that stand—that we're doing things just because of money.

Comm. Buchanan: Oh yes, no. I know you're not—

Comm. Smith: We're doing things for the resources—

Comm. Buchanan: Yes—

Comm. Smith: —okay? I can't let that stand.

Comm. Buchanan: I agree with that. That's—I'm not agreeing saying that it's adverse to that.

Comm. Cremer: I'll take that back. Maybe not necessarily you guys do it for the money, but there are other groups that are involved.

Comm. Smith: I don't agree with that either. I think we're trying to accomplish certain things on certain pieces of land for the resources that are there. I don't think any of us, I am not aware of any organization in Hawaii or elsewhere, that does it just to chase money. I just don't agree with that. I'm sorry. But it's a public meeting, I've got to say that.

Comm. Smith: I mean, we ident—you know, there are certain pieces of land, they have certain resources, we make a decision on how those need to be managed, then we try to get the funding to do that. We don't just say "Oh, there's money available to manage native ecosystems, so why don't we just go grab a piece of land and start managing it?" It's just not the way the

decision-making process goes. I'm sorry, I just can't let that stand as a statement. But, I mean, you're welcome to have that opinion, but I can tell you that that is not the way it works. And I think that if we understood each other better you would understand that I'm not just making it up.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay. I know.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, I sorry I brought up NARS. I think we just like went over all of you, and I think for us not having the NARS component in the room, is problematic. I don't know if I the only one feel like that. For me I feel like, I would hope that somebody from NARS was sitting and just listening. Just listen, because it ultimately, that's where the real grind for hunting pig comes in, it comes mostly from the NARS side, and the priority fencing comes from there, so, if they were in on this discussion, I think it would be very helpful. So. You don't think it would be helpful?

Comm. Smith: No, it would be helpful, it would be fine.

Comm. Buchanan: How can we make that happen?

Comm. Smith: I can ask them to come.

Comm. Buchanan: I would love for you to invite the NARS staff if my commissioners feel that that is also important. I do. I would love to have them here listening to us. I think it would be good for them.

Comm. Cremer: I think it's a hot topic, especially for me. And you guys got to understand this, sometimes I am really passionate about what I speak and not necessarily attacking you guys. This is something that I said was going to happen long time ago and I see it in front of my eyes and people never like listen.

Comm. Buchanan: I agree.

Comm. Smith: Yes, so I think a lot of it, you know, it's a two-way street, so some of it's us understanding and having good communications with the hunters, but it's also a matter of you understanding what we do, and how we have to manage land. So, it's a two-way street, it's a two-way communication.

Comm. Buchanan: Awesome. He is going to invite NARS to attend our own meetings, which would be super awesome. Can you please support my Maui staff financially with being able to come once we convene a working group of hunters on Molokai to come at least maybe once a quarter to Molokai to

sit down with the working group, the hunter working group, convening of other agency type of people.

Shane De Mattos: Yes. No, I don't mind joining, I don't think finance is a problem, but I've got a family, too, there that I have to take care of, and so I got to to balance my time between Lanai. Financially, it's not going to be a problem, it's just my time that I got to spend if I going to spend overnight but with Molokai's lack of flights, that's one of the issues. And you know, I mean it's been one time, but over the years I've, over the year I traveled a lot, so I got to balance.

Chair Sabati: Anybody else like to add before we move to the next item?

Comm. Buchanan: The leg[islative] report.

Shaya Honarvar: It's due... January.

Comm. Buchanan: I don't know, the commission is not knowing of this while it transpired because it's off the record and after meeting, but Shaya had a deadline for the legislative report that is in the bill that is due to the leg. I wanted this meeting to occur, I wanted the discussion about the Waianae aerial shooting to occur and happen before the leg report was written, but Shaya wasn't afforded that flexibility by staff and whoever, they get deadlines, because got to jump through all the hoops. So... was either that she do them a month ago, or we do them. So I guess I said I would do it. I am not a writer, you know. But I just said we would do it. Because then will come from our perspective as a report from this commission to our legislators who made the bill. And so that's where we stand. So I don't know how you guys feel about that. Okay? Not okay? Got to go hire somebody? We're going to do our own report? You guys okay with us doing our own report? It's kind of... the train left the station. Shaya not going to do them anymore, so we stuck doing them. When we say we, we're like "It's me, I see if I can!"

Unk: And this is due in January?

Comm. Smith: Twenty days before the start of the leg session.

Comm. Buchanan: So January 1st but I not going wait to January 1st, but I can work in concert with Shaya because all of this stuff got to get recorded and transcribed, because I got to use the minutes of the last meeting.

Shaya Honarvar: I'll make sure of that, the meeting minutes have to be done thirty days after today.

Comm. Buchanan: Okay, good.

Shaya Honarvar: So you'll have them.

Comm. Buchanan: All right. So before the end of December, you are, everybody on vacation already. Somebody going to have to proofread them. Okay, that's it, that's it, I was panicking about the leg report.

Chair Sabati: Okay. So next meeting. When is opening of next leg session?

Comm. Timko: January 17th is a Wednesday.

Comm. Smith: Yeah, that's my impression they started on third Wednesday...

Comm. Buchanan: They have all the celebration and opening ceremonies and then in the afternoon is when everybody go and meet and greet, yeah, so after lunch. We can meet in the morning until then, if you guys like, and then after that, go over and just meet people as a group.

Chair Sabati: Okay next meeting will be on January 17th, Wednesday. And meeting in the morning and then we go talk stories with the legislators doing introductions in the afternoon.

ITEM 9. Announcements.

None

ITEM 10. Adjournment.

The meeting was officially adjourned.