

KISC Quarterly Meeting

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 19, 2007
HDOA Conference Room
10:00 am to 12:00 noon

[Attendees: Jeffrey Herod (USFWS), Karl Buermeyer (USFWS), Joe Kona (KISC), Tysen Rapozo (KISC), Eric Twedt (KISC), Larry Kaneholani (KISC), Keren Gundersen (KISC), Jeff Schlueter (KISC), Carl Berg (Hawaiian Wildlife Tours), Tim Flynn (NTBG), Jeri Ooka (UH-CTAHR), Roy Yamakawa (CTAHR), Sherri Paul (DLNR-DOFAW), Jackie Kozak (HISC), Trae Menard (TNC), Wayne Souza (DLNR-State Parks), Allen Rietow (TNC)]

I. Welcome/Introduce Guests/New Members

Introduction of new KISC employees: Tysen Rapozo (Natural Resources Field Assistant), Mugs Kaneholani (Field Crew Supervisor), Coqui Crew (not in attendance: Robert Diaz, Cheryl Lemalu, Duane Patricio, Lisa St. Amant). Visitors from off-island: Jeffrey Herod and Karl Buermeyer with US Fish and Wildlife Service.

II. Status of KISC Chair and Chair-elect

Due to Jayme Patrick (KISC's elected chairperson for FY2008-2010) not only leaving USDA Wildlife Services, but Kauai (in September), Allen Rietow (KISC's Chair-emeritus) has decided to step back into the chair position for the upcoming term. As we only had one nominee for Chair-elect, Sherri Paul will take over this position.

III. Review Agenda Items

IV. Review and Approve Minutes from April 19, 2007 Quarterly Meeting

Minutes were moved for approval by Tim Flynn and seconded by Carl Berg. They were unanimously approved by the committee.

V. Guest presentation: "Protecting the summit: Feral pig control in the Alakai Wilderness Preserve" – *Trae Menard, Kauai Program Director & Kauai Watershed Alliance Coordinator*

Half of what the Nature Conservancy does is weed control, but tied to these efforts is the control of feral ungulates. Before humans came to this island the native forest extended essentially to the ocean. But during the last 2000 years (especially the last 200 years) agriculture, development, and invasive species (ungulates and plants) have had a devastating effect on this remaining native forest. Trae explains the progression of the evolution of the introduced pig and what control measures the Nature Conservancy and the Kauai Watershed Alliance would like to implement here on Kauai to protect the remaining portions of this island's watersheds. To view the presentation link to:

<http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20070719alakaiferalpigs/>.

[TF: is the state receptive to changing bag limits or hunting times?] [TM: Discussions are happening presently.] [JO: What is the bag limit presently?] [TM: 1 pig per hunting day. This bag limit only applies to Kauai. On Molokai they can get up to 16 or 18 pigs per hunting day.] [JO: What about in the lower elevations like the corn fields?] [TM: The Kauai Watershed Alliance is trying to address this by getting the private land-owners to open up land to the public for hunting. They are presently specifically working with McBride in opening up the Wahiawa Bog.] [RY: How hard would it be to have the state change the bag limit?] [WS: The change is not difficult; politics are.] [TM: Upping the bag limit won't diminish the pig population. I do not see a time on Kauai where there will not be pig hunting. Actually, it would be easier for the state to change the bag limit in the Alakai

Wilderness Preserve than in the Forest Preserve.] [JS: Aren't invasive weeds still a threat even without pigs present?] [TM: The forest has more resiliency to deter weeds without pigs present. With pigs present, the rate at which weeds spread is greatly accelerated.] [AR: Some weeds are suppressed naturally but can become easily established with disturbance.] [TM: Grass weeds move in and take over the under-story. Trees can't reproduce, maintaining a cycle for a healthy forest, and therefore it turns into a weedy pasture. Eventually the trees die out altogether.] [RY: Will DOFAW be changing the rules?] [TM: Yes, they are considering it.] [RA: Let me know. My dogs are ready to go!] [WS: DLNR has advisory group that deals with this called Kalawale(sp?).] [TM: Yes, we already have a meeting scheduled.] [SP: During your presentation about the hunters called Pro Hunt, are these the same hunters that when out to Lehua Islet?] [TM: No, Pro Hunt is from New Zealand and are very sophisticated using helicopters and dogs.] [ET: Have you tried systematic baiting?] [TM: Yes, we did on the Big Island between two Macadamia Nut farms. We baited with nuts. 6000 pigs were trapped out in 2 years.] [CB: Baiting is now being used in home areas on Kauai on the north shore.]

VI. Updates:

◆ Partner Updates:

↶ **State Parks – Wayne Souza**

Some of the most recent changes involve installation of a gate at Kee and reinventing Fern Grotto. The **gate in the Kee parking** area (behind the restroom) was installed to stop vehicle traffic behind the dunes and to protect burials. **At the Fern Grotto**, during the 40 days and nights of rain at the beginning of 2005 boulders came down, vegetation was damaged and the facility was left in disrepair. Rock-fall mitigation was conducted. They put up fences on rock outcrops, and removed hazardous trees. The state has spent \$1 million on these repairs. They are now concerned about the reservoir above the grotto. Reconstruction of the Hanamaulu Reservoir and spillway has been deemed necessary. This reservoir is critical to the Fern Grotto's lushness. Work is also being done to make a ginger garden and trap pigs out of the area. [CB: Will the state increase user fees to pay for all of this restoration?] [WS: The state will probably never recover these costs. There is only one river tour now.]

The legislature has approved 30+ State Park positions. On Kauai a heavy equipment operator position was approved to be paid for out of generated revenue. It will come out of the operating costs, so we will need to cut back on operations. Kauai and Diamond Head generate most of the funds in the state. 55% of generated funds from Diamond Head stays at Diamond Head. [RY: Will the state be generating revenue by charging admission to Kokee?] [WS: We are waiting for a new chairperson to be appointed to decide the direction of this.] [RY: Will there be other concession areas in Kokee?] [WS: Apart from the NaPali charge @\$10/night, it is not worth it because the areas in Kokee only are \$5.00/night.] [RY: The locals ask themselves why they should bother to get permits when they see illegals in Kalalau.] [WS: Enforcement has also gotten some new positions.] [RY: Do cruise lines supplement revenue to the Parks since they bring tourists up to Kokee?] [WS: Not a lot of cruise tourists make it up to Kokee since the cruises are on such a tight schedule.] [KG: Can more revenue generated by Kauai parks stay on Kauai?] [WS: Actually, the Kokee Master Plan proposes that 35% of generated revenue stay in the park. We might get pressure now to make that happen.]

↶ **KRCP – Katie Cassel**

(KRCP couldn't make the meeting and sent their update via email.) We had 8 interns work with us this summer; College students from Kauai, Big Island, Oahu, the mainland, Canada and the UK. We are now down to 6. They are slowly leaving to go back in preparation for school. Most are majoring in either biology or natural resource conservation/environmental studies. They are a GREAT group to work with! They've had opportunities to work different areas around Koke'e, Alaka'i

swamp, Mohihi, Kalalau to help the State and assisting Hui o Laka with the nature trail, to name a few. They've also had the opportunity to work with different clubs/volunteers. This was a great experience for them to learn creativity and leadership skills. They've also helped us cover a lot of acreage. They also got to participate in an experiment on drilling Australian tree ferns (ATF) and treating with herbicide. We have James Leery, who is a research scientist with CTAHR, coming here on 7/30 to run trials on ATFs to increase efficacy on killing them.

↻ **DLNR – DOFAW – Sherri Paul**

Sherri has been working on the same targets and journaling progress on ATF. [AR: What are your current ground trials?] [SP: We have conducted drilling them only recently. We drilled 5 or 6 at different heights and different sizes. There has been other trials w/TNC using AquaMaster, Path Finder, and Dicamba. The Dicamba seems to be working the best but can't be using it around water or sensitive plants. We have also been cutting them. [AR: Do you see any rejuvenation from the cut log?] [SP: Only from the meristem. That needs to be chopped up.] [RY: I thought you could just cut the top off.] [SP: We have seen rejuvenation with the method.] [RY: Maybe there is a zone right at the top that enables the kill or precipitation matters.] [CB: What ever became of the snake report in Hanalei?] [SP: Not sure, Alan Silva was responding to that.] [ET: The report was of a grey snake with a black stripe.] [CB: It seems there have been good sightings a couple miles downstream from the original sighting.] [Jacq.K: We made informational flyers that tried not to scare people or deter from kayaking business on the river. It is important to inform tourists that there are not supposed to be snakes here in Kauai.]

↻ **NTBG – Jackie Kozak for Mike Wysong**

We recently took a work trip to the upper preserve in Limahuli Valley. There were about 10 people on the trip including Jeff Schlueter from KISC and the Shearwater group. We conducted about 81 ATF removals, 7 tulip trees and 8 paper barks. The ground control was quite impressive and Jackie will be doing a press release.

↻ **HDOA – Craig Kaneshige**

Surveys are being conducted for nettle caterpillar and Asiatic citrus psyllid. The main host plant for the citrus psyllid is mock orange. It is not yet found on Kauai but can carry the disease of citrus greening. Also, papaya mealy bug has been found on the west side of Kauai. It is not in orchards yet but can be found on plumeria and hibiscus. It seems to be widespread.

↻ **USFWS – Karl Buermeyer**

The invasive species division has been beefing up and Karl and Jeff Herod will be working more closely with the ISCs and be taking on brown tree snake responsibilities. The refuge division also hired an invasive species specialist. Karl will be going to Guam for 3 weeks with some people from HDOA for the BTS training. Jeff's background is mainly with aquatic invasive species. USFWS will be implementing a big project with HDOA conducting aerial application of diphacinone to target rats in remote areas. They are still waiting on approval from HDOA. [SP: Has secondary kill been researched?] [KB: Yes, Katie Swift did the research.] Avian influenza field research with bird testing will be conducted this season. [CB: What about West Nile Virus?] [KB: The state is handling that.] Fred Kraus is conducting a risk assessment and probability for invasive Herpetiles from around the world.

◆ **Coqui Control in Lawai – Keren Gundersen**

Funding was reviewed emphasizing the considerable input from the County of Kauai of \$320,000. A work notification policy was put in place as well as signage at the Lawai site and flyers. The vertebrate crew started on June 25 and has already made much headway. Kristin helped to put together our frog protocols in a field book for the crew. Jeff has been collecting data from the digital recorders and with the help of software from Cornell University is able to analyze it to track our progress out at the site. Additional vegetation has been cleared with a contractor on the intake side of the

reservoir. We are still confident in achieving our goal of no calling frogs by the fall. For more details check out:

<http://www.hear.org/kisc/presentations/20070719coquiupdate>.

- ◆ **Early Detection – Keren Gundersen for Kristin Hall**

There was a glitch in getting the roadside survey off the ground. RCUH had decided that the contract could not be awarded to NTBG as a “sole source” bid and requested additional bids. After much communication with various entities, it was determined that no one else would submit a bid for this project and NTBG will, indeed, get the contract. It is being finalized, but the end date will most likely have to be modified. All of Kauai’s public roads will be surveyed at a slow pace (@ 5 mph) and plants will be searched for from a compiled list of likely incipient species.
- ◆ **HISC Outreach activities – Jackie Kozak**

The HISC is meeting today to finalize the budget. It looks like the Public Outreach Working Group will receive \$312,000 this year (\$220,000 last year). The group is working to improve the website for the Weed Risk Assessment to target nurserymen and make it more user-friendly. Check out the current website at the following: <http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/daehler/WRA/default2.htm>. Please email Jackie any suggestions for the new site (jkozak@hawaii.edu). Other projects include re-doing the *Silent Invasion* pamphlet making it more personalized with testimonies from individuals from all aspects of agriculture, commerce, education, and culture. The outreach grant program will be re-instated accessing about \$50-\$70K (\$10K each). Jackie is also working with the Garden Island Arts Council writing grants to extend their program Kahu Aina program to cultivate native species appreciation through creativity. She is working with Carol Yotsuda also to put up an airport display.

VII. **New Items:**

- ◆ **A Hui Hou to Ronson!**

Ronson, who has been with KISC for 1 ½ years, will be leaving to pursue a career in landscaping with Kukuiula Development. We wish him all the best of luck! We will be holding a potluck after the meeting today and everyone is welcome to join us.
- ◆ **Kauai Farm Bureau Fair Sign-ups**

The sign-up is being passed around. Please join us at the KISC booth to help spread the word about invasive species.
- ◆ **KISC 2007 Action Plan**

Kristin and Jeff have helped put together our new 2007 Action Plan (copies were handed out at the meeting. The final product will be posted on the web).
- ◆ **KISC Meeting Schedule**
 - ↯ October 18, 9 am to Pau: *Strategic Planning Meeting**
 - ↯ January 17 – *KISC Quarterly Meeting*
 - ↯ April 17 - *KISC Quarterly Meeting*

VIII. **Announcements:**

- ◆ **Kauai Farm Bureau Fair – August 23 – 26, 2007**

IX. **Next Meeting – Strategic Planning Meeting * Thursday, October 18, 2007**

****At the time of the posting of these approved minutes, this meeting was changed to a regular quarterly meeting.***

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