

**HAWAII WETLAND JOINT VENTURE
Partners Meeting**

MEETING NOTES: May 11, 2010
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Conference Room, Federal Bldg.
Honolulu, Oahu

1. Welcome and Introductions: J. Rubey (Hawaii Wetland Joint Venture Coordinator) facilitated the meeting. Those in attendance were:

In Person:		
Pauline Sato	Malama Hawaii	pauline.sato@gmail.com
Adonia Henry	Scaup & Willet LLC	adoniahenry@gmail.com
Gordon Smith	USFWS Fish Habitat Partnership	gordon_smith@fws.gov
Chuck Burrows	Ahahui Malama I ka Lakaki	chuckb@hawaii.rr.com
Rick Kaimi Scudder	Ahahui Malama I ka Lakaki	rick_scudder@yahoo.com
Celeste Ventresca	Hawaii Conservation Alliance	hcaoutreach@gmail.com
Craig Rowland	USFWS Partners Programs	craig_rowland@fws.gov
Jacqueline Kozak	HI /Invasive Species Council	jkozak@hawaii.edu
Sheldon Plentovich	USFWS Coastal Program	Sheldon_plentovich@fws.gov
Meredith Speicher	National Park Service - RTCA	Meredith_speicher@nps.gov
Bob Burke	Oceanit	rbourke@oceanit.com
Ati Jeffers Fabro	DLNR DoFaW, Oahu	Ati.R.Jeffers-Fabro@hawaii.gov
Norma Bustos	DLNR DoFaW, Honolulu	Norma.I.Bustos@hawaii.gov
Jeff Burgett	USFWS, LCC Coordinator	jeff_burgett@fws.gov
By Phone:		
Carey Smith	Pacific Coast Joint Venture	carey_smith@fws.gov
Ann Kobsa	Malama O Puna	ann.kobsa@gmail.com
Joy Browning	US Fish & Wildlife Service	joy_browning@fws.gov

2. Koloa Maoli Communication and Outreach Plan. Presentation by Pauline Sato, Malama Hawaii

The Koloa Maoli communication and outreach plan (KMCOP) provides a framework for localized (Kaua'i/Ni'ihau) and statewide educational campaigns to build public support for removing the threat of feral Mallards and Mallard-Koloa hybrids to the Koloa. With funding from the Pacific Coast Joint Venture and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Malama Hawaii completed both the KMCOP and educational television segments on the koloa in 2009. The plan outlines steps that can be taken immediately to build public awareness of, and support for, public and private efforts to prevent the Koloa's extinction.

The Koloa Maoli (Hawaiian Duck, *Anas wyvilliana*) is one of only two endemic duck species found in Hawaii and is the only native duck that remains in the main Hawaiian Islands. The Koloa Maoli is an endangered species with an estimate total population of about 2,200 birds mainly located on

Kauai, Niihau, and parts of Hawaii Island. It is the only native Hawaiian bird facing extinction from hybridization with a non-native species the feral Mallard.

The USFWS Draft Revised Recovery Plan for Endangered Hawaiian Waterbirds (2005) calls for the removal of all feral Mallards and Mallard-Koloa hybrids as a high priority action for Koloa Maoli recovery. The plan identifies several problem areas that contribute to the current threat for Koloa. These include the lack of public awareness about Koloa, their endangered status, and the Mallard threat; gaps in the scientific knowledge about Koloa ecology and movements; current policies and permits related to control of feral Mallards; and the previous absence of public communication and outreach regarding the issue.

The KMCOP emphasizes action in the three areas of policy, management, and communication. The policy goal is to make it illegal to propagate, buy, sell, and transport domestic Mallards within the islands. The communication goal is to conduct an educational campaign that increases public support and engenders action to protect and restore true Koloa Maoli populations. The management goal is to protect and restore true Koloa Maoli populations to multiple islands. Phase I of the strategy is to conduct a Kauai/Niihau Island campaign to inform the public and garner support for Koloa recovery. Phase II would be a statewide campaign for public support. The total plan is a five year effort.

The securing of funds to hire an outreach specialist and begin Phase I is currently underway with a funding proposal having been submitted by DOFAW to the Walt Disney Foundation for \$50K. State Wildlife Grant Funds are already available for a two-year part time position, says Norma Bustos at DOFAW. Also, USFWS discretionary funds may be available for the other half position, to be announced soon says Joy Browning.

For the Phase I campaign on Kaua'i, a key step will be to get some local champions says Jackie Kozak. Also designating Koloa as the state wetland bird would help raise awareness says Pauline. We extend our thanks to Pauline for her overview of the KMCOP.

3. Wetland & Waterbird Conference Discussion, with Norma Bustos, DOFAW

Norma has \$3,000 from the PCJV Discretionary Funds to hold a Wetlands and Waterbirds Conference later this year. She is currently looking for a conference coordinator to set up the event. The event could be held in the fall or even early next year. The plan is to hold the event on Oahu at the Pali Golf Course for either one or two days, depending on funding resources and need. Partners discussed the potential of orienting the conference around workshop sessions that address a number of key topic areas of concern to wetland managers. The workshop concept would allow for attendees to receive specific types of training in areas they most need to develop skills.

The following ideas were presented as potential subject areas for focused workshop sessions:

- 1) Koloa Hybrid Field Identification with Andy Engilis
- 2) MESHH a computer model for managing endangered species habitat with Mike Reed
- 3) Botulism Response
- 4) Wetland Delineation Basics: soils, plants, and hydrology
- 5) Invasive Plant Physiology & Control

- 6) Predator Control Techniques
- 7) Restoration Techniques
- 8) Public Outreach & Landowner How-to Help
- 9) Permitting Issues – Problem Solving Work Session?

Further development of the conference content will be addressed when a coordinator is identified. Other workshop ideas of interest to partners can be forwarded to Rubey@pcjv.org.

4. HWJV Coordinator's Update by J. Rubey

NEW Wetlands Brochure. DOFAW's new Wetland Brochure and Poster, funded by the PCJV, was passed out. It is the first wetlands information material available for the general public of Hawaii. The brochure and poster can be accessed on the PCJV website at: www.pcjv.org/hawaii/wetlands. Copies of the poster can be obtained directly from DOFAW's Michelle Jones at Michelle.G.Jones@hawaii.gov

PCJV Discretionary Projects. In April, the PCJV Board approved six discretionary fund projects for Hawaii. The six projects are: Mana Plain Wetland Restoration Planning (\$7,200), Kaiwainui Wetland Bird Habitat Restoration (\$5,000), Big Island Mangrove Eradication and Native Shoreline Enhancement (\$8,450), Recovery of Hawaiian Duck: Training and use of Hybrid Identification Key (\$6,350), Introducing MESH Software for Managing Endangered Species Habitat in Hawaii (\$2,000), and Kauai Nene Brochure (\$2,800).

2010 State of the Birds Report. The 2010 USFWS State of the Birds Report announced that the Ocean Biome and Hawaiian Islands Biome are at the top of the list for most threatened due to climate change. Applying a systematic analysis of impacts to bird populations across the country, the Report identifies the Hawaiian Islands as a high risk biome. This dire rating follows the 2009 Report that declared Hawaii the area with the highest current numbers of endangered species in the nation. Both a warning and an opportunity, the focus on Hawaii species endangerment warrants focused attention on bird recovery by the nation.

Newsletter Format. The May, 2010 edition of the Wetlands Monitor has been posted to the PCJV website. Several articles are available, including: 2010 State of the Birds Report; Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative; Wetlands and Climate Change; Comparing Vegetation and Soils of Natural, Restored, and Created Coastal Lowland Wetlands; and Mangrove Eradication Within Reach on Hawaii Island. We are using a new format to present the newsletter, which offers access directly to each article rather than scrolling through the entire newsletter to reach a later article. Please let us know if this works better for you, or not, by contacting Rubey@pcjv.org

Next PCJV Board Meeting. The PCJV Board met in April in Duncan, British Columbia. It was an informative meeting with continued discussion around the formation of the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives across the nation and in the Pacific NW. At this meeting the Board decided to meet on the Island of Maui in the late fall. It has been six years since the last, and first, Board meeting here in Hawaii. So, we look forward to hosting them at the start of December.

Conservation Registry. The PCJV Conservation Registry Portal is up and running. Partners can upload conservation projects at the web address <http://pcjv.conservationregistry.org/> Webinars are being held on a regular schedule, so partners are encouraged to get familiar with this new tool.

5. PCJV Coordinator's Update by Carey Smith

Funding Opportunities: The National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants round is upon us, with drafts due in late May and finals in late June. Carey is working with the grant folks to get them more familiar with the unique issues that Hawaii faces with wetland recovery efforts under this program. Additionally the large North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant application deadlines are March 5th and July 30 this year. Small (\$75K) NAWCA grant deadline is October 28th.

Pacific Marine Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership: A newly established Fish Habitat Partnership for the US Pacific Coast has just been established, with the expectation that a partnership committee member will soon be part of the PCJV Board.

6. HWJV Partners' Reports:

- **Malama O Puna: Ann Kobsa** mentioned that the mangrove removal being conducted in the Puna area is temporarily halted due to a citizen lawsuit against the project's removal of the invasive species.
- **USFWS Fish Habitat Partnership: Gordon Smith** mentioned that there are 16 FHPs across the nation. National funding support to Hawaii is ~ \$90K this year, for stream and aquatic habitat work which includes marine and coastal areas in a full watershed emphasis. There are two tracks of funding: one for science and data support and the other for action projects. Under the science and data support category, they have completed an Atlas of Hawaiian Watersheds in DVD format and will be completing work on barriers to streams in Hawaii. On the project side, four project sites will receive support in 2010: 1) Kauai's lower Waipao Valley for hau removal, 2) Oahu's Heeia wetland conservation action plan, 3) Oahu's Kaneohe Bay Malea Pond invasive algae removal, and 4) Hawaii Island's South Point anchialine pool recovery. The next round of project funding will be coming up in mid-summer.
- **USFWS Coastal Program: Sheldon Plentovich** was introduced as the new Coastal Program Coordinator replacing Chris Swenson. She provided the following updates on Coastal Program projects. The Maui Coastal Land Trust has almost completed installment of their new pig fencing to protect the core Nu'u wetland. Kaho'olawe wetlands are bone dry, which will be addressed by removing and chipping up mesquite to create much needed soil. Also, trials are underway to develop a toxicant for mice control. *Norma Bustos added that there have been some conversations regarding the possibility of translocating nene populations to Kaho'olawe in the future.*

- **NPS RTCA Program: Meredith Speicher** mentioned the value of the Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for helping with community outreach and involvement on conservation projects.
- **PICCC: Jeff Burgett** reported on the status of the Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) called Pacific Coast Climate Change Cooperative (PICCC.) Newly under development, the PICCC is the first LCC to be established in the nation. The LCCs are partnerships of all key players in an area who are working together to infuse climate change science, both ecological and social, into the ongoing protection of natural ecosystems. Currently the eyes of the Dept. of Interior are looking closely at the PICCC, according to Jeff who just attended a meeting of NGOs and Congressional staffers in D.C. Our PICCC is working diligently to get fully set up by both hiring key staff positions such as program and science coordinators and preparing an appropriate working space at the Gold Bond Building. The take home message about the PICCC is that they are listening to fill the needs of the JV (i.e. wetlands and waterbird species protection) by bringing science and site management together.
- **DLNR DoFaW (Honolulu): Norma Bustos** reported on the progress of several federally grant funded projects.
- **DLNR DoFaW (Oahu): Ati Jeffers-Fabro** provided the following Oahu site updates: 1) DOFAW Oahu and Friends of Ka'ena are getting administrative help from the NPS RTCA Program to engage the community in action. 2) Kawainui Marsh MOU with Ahuahui Malama I ka Lokaki is in place for work in the Kanaohe area. 3) For Hamakua Marsh, a habitat conservation plan is under development with First Wind, a wind farm in the area. 4) Piko Lagoon restoration continues with lots of volunteer help planting 500K native plants. 5) At Pouhala marsh Oceanit is drafting a plan for restoration of ponds using Coastal grant support. Also it was documented that fledgling success jumped from 1 to 20 with the application of predator control on the site. *It was noted by Adonia that some solid documentation of predator control benefits should be put together in a summarized report to persuade granting programs of the benefits and need in Hawaii. Bob added that Ohiapilo on Molokai has good examples of predator proof benefits.*
- **Oceanit: Bob Burke** mentioned they are working on a stream restoration assessment for Kawainui Marsh as they look at how to siphon water over the berm to the marsh and what might be the impacts.
- **USFWS Partners Program: Craig Rowland** recapped the program assistance provided by his office through: 1) Coastal Program, 2) Fish Habitat Partnership, 3) Partners for Fish & Wildlife with Benton Pang (usually upland areas but some wetlands, contact any time of year for project assistance), 4) Recovery Land Acquisition funding at about \$3 million/yr thru Hawaii DOFAW (contact Norma by Sept.), and 5) assistance with National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants through the Coastal Program.

- **Scaup & Willet LLC: Adonia Henry** updated on the Kawaiele and Mana Plain projects with the Kauai DOFAW office. Current activities are the finalizing of a public information brochure, sand removal at Kawaiele, and additional hydrology funding.
- **Hawaii Conservation Alliance: Celeste Ventresca** offered information on two upcoming public events, 1) an endangered species day coming up on Saturday May 22nd at the Honolulu Zoo, and 2) July 25-31st Conservation Week events statewide. Great events for wetlands components to be added.
- **Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi: Kaimi Scudder** works with volunteers at Kawainui and mentioned that there is an interpretive plan for Kaiwainui Marsh that is out to the community for input.
- **Ramsar (Wetlands of International Importance): Chuck Burrows**, now serving on the US Ramsar National Committee, mentioned that Ramsar Wetlands Day was held in early February at Kawainui Marsh (Hawaii's sole Ramsar site) with the help of DOFAW. Also, \$5K in funding from the International Ramsar Council was allocated for signage at Kawainui a few years ago. Chuck made an appeal for nominations of other Hawaii wetlands of ecological significance to be nominated to Ramsar. *(One area recently recommended by the USFWS Regional Office was the Alaka'i Swamp on Kauai.)* Chuck also attended a Conservation Registry webinar provided by the PCJV and supports and encourages partners to upload their wetland site information onto the database.

Honouliuli and Waiawa National Wildlife Refuge Wetland Site Visit on Pearl Harbor: was conducted from 2:00 to 4:00 with George Fisher as our site guide. Mahalo nui loa to George for an excellent tour!