

**Aloha Arborist Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2011**

Members Present: Carol Kwan, Steve Connolly, Steve Nimz, Mark Leon, Sergio Vasquez, Teresa Trueman-Madriaga, Andrew Kendall, John O'Shea, Doug DeMoss

Guest: Chris Dacus

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2011, MEETING MINUTES

- A) President Steve Connolly called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. The February 16, 2011, minutes were approved as written.

II. GUEST SPEAKERS

- A) Chris Dacus, the new LICH president, reported on what's happening with LICH. They're making lots of changes. Three things are being retooled: 1) industry news, 2) website, and 3) the conference. Some things that were set up in the past will be continued, like the CLT program and insurance assistance.

- i) For the industry news, LICH will be converting from a newspaper format to a glossy magazine of probably 24-32 pages. Gannett was going to start charging \$18K/issue, so LICH's is taking the publication in-house. The new magazine will be a vehicle for AAA to promote its events plus the magazine will include people news – babies, marriages, mergers, awards, etc. in addition to what's going on in the industry. One type of certification will be featured in each issue – CLT, CA, CTW, LEED, etc. – what the certification is and what it means. This is an opportunity to promote different certifications that exist in each facet of the industry. ISA's Certified Arborist and Certified Tree Worker will be among the first ones featured. LICH will be asking AAA to help it out and explain what these people do and why people should hire them. The magazine will be changing things dramatically and the first issue should arrive in about three weeks. There will be lots of opportunities to participate. Certified Arborists can earn CEUs for writing articles. Chris' handouts (Landscape Hawaii Editorial Calendar and 2011 LICH Board of Directors Meeting Schedule) are attached for reference.
- ii) The website will also be changing quite a bit. Every week, they'll be adding interesting stories and the calendar will be populated regularly.
- iii) The LICH Conference will also be different this year. The last couple of conferences have lost money, so the decision was made to have the conference for one-day only. It will be on October 6, 2011, at the Neil Blaisdell Center. There will be five to six tracks, so people will have to make hard choices when choosing which topics to go to. Tomorrow, March 17, 2011, there's a committee meeting at Harris United Methodist Church to discuss what those tracks will be. The conference will be scheduled so that the ISA CEUs and Pesticide CEUs won't conflict. There are also opportunities to sell your services at the Trade Show.
- iv) The LICH meetings are open for anyone to attend and participate in. There will be six topic meetings and six planning meetings between Board meetings. Board meetings are held at UH with teleconferencing for people on the Neighbor Islands.

- v) LICH is planning to discuss research needs with the entire green industry and meet with UH on why it should change its resources and priorities. We need to go to UH with the big picture and why they should really focus on this. Right now it's an agricultural school with a few accessories. It needs to shift its focus to be more on landscaping because that's a bigger piece now. Carl Evenson, the interim associate dean for Cooperative Extension, will facilitate a master plan on research and education. The head of the education committee at the Legislature is very interested in pushing this agenda.
 - vi) To conclude, there are lots of opportunities at LICH if you want to be involved.
- B) Teresa Trueman-Madriaga, new AAA member, spoke about the Urban Forestry Emergency Operations Planning Tool Kit for Storm Response.
- i) Friends of Hawai'i's Urban Forest got a NUCFAC grant to develop this. It took over six months to develop this survey. Carol forwarded the link to AAA's training list. The survey is also going out across the country. They're looking for people's opinions now, then the next step is to select a core group from across the country to develop the kit. She'd appreciate our input. All responses are confidential.
 - ii) The Friends of Hawai'i's Urban Forest also is working on a LIDAR for the urban tree canopy from Honolulu to Kapolei. Teresa is working with Stan on this. They're trying to do a lot of high tech projects for the industry. Thanks for AAA's help and support.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A) Treasurer's Report

- i) The treasurer's report through December 31, 2011, was handed out. A copy is attached.

B) Training Workshops

i) Small Workshops

(a) Basic Entry Methods/False Crotch 2/26/2011

- (i) There was a poor showing for this workshop with lots of no-shows. The net for the workshop was around \$400 towards the TCC fund.
- (ii) Steve Connolly is considering holding the same class on another date. It was a great workshop and participants got to play with various tools and techniques. The next workshop will require payment in advance.

(b) Chain Saw Workshop

- (i) Tabled

(c) Basic Rigging Demo

(i) Tabled

(d) Advanced Diagnostics Workshop

- (i) The workshop is scheduled for March 28, 2011. For the people who are attending, bring whatever diagnostic tools you have in addition to the list that Carol sent out.

(e) WCISA Regional Meeting

- (i) Steve Nimz and Carol are planning a workshop for AAA/WCISA towards the end of August 2011, with Jim Downer as a speaker. Steve said that Jim is a fun and dynamic speaker who keeps your interest up. The meeting was set for August 24, 2011. McCoy Pavilion is available on that date.

C) Research Committee

- i) Teresa reported that the TUFRC Steering Committee is continuing to meet monthly. Bruce Tsuchida (APA), Ted Green, Terri Koike (DUF), Dawn Easterday (ASLA), and Austin Braaten (HSUFP) will be joining the committee to add different perspectives and viewpoints. We're trying to leverage the fact that this was a national directive from the Puerto Rico summit. The needs have been identified and no one else is really doing it so Hawaii is taking the lead. The intent is for TUFRC to be broad-based, not just Hawaii or U.S. centered but the tropics and subtropics worldwide.
- ii) Steve Nimz added that Dudley brought this neat map colored to show from the Tropic of Cancer to the Tropic of Capricorn to the last TUFRC meeting. It's a huge area and all of the research to date has been done in the small area above it. There's much more land mass in the tropical/subtropical area. Christopher Dunn from Lyon Arboretum is on the committee too and is looking at what can be done with UH, but we're keeping an open mind on different possibilities, not just UH. If UH comes through, fine, but their track record isn't that great. Lyon Arboretum and Paradise Park would be such a great tropical center. TUFRC could also be a combination of physical and virtual. Not all of the research would have to be done here, but we could be the repository. If UH decides not to support us, we'll keep going anyway.
- iii) Chris noted that UH's lack of support for research in the past is partly UH's fault but the industry shares the blame. We haven't acted as a united \$500M+ industry. When we've talked to UH, it's been from each small member group instead of a united front. Now LICH is taking a different tack, identifying research needs for the entire industry. LICH will be holding a meeting on June 16, 2011, to identify industry-wide research priorities. He hopes AAA will participate since we're way ahead of most of the other groups. Last year, Chris went to all of the dean selection meetings and wrote a letter to the Chair expressing concern that the candidates only have an agriculture background and not sustainability or the green industry. Currently there's an interim dean with solicitations for a permanent dean coming soon. LICH will be involved in the selection process.

- iv) Teresa noted that even just doing a literature review would be good. There is existing research out there of interest, but it's not specific to tropical regions. She'll be writing a grant request this summer to go in for a Forest Service Western Region competitive grant for probably around \$15K. The Outdoor Circle is also willing to commit some monetary support from the Christine Snyder Fund. By next year, there could be someone hired to do some work. Enough people care to make this happen.

D) 2011 Hawaii TCC

- i) Steve Connolly spoke to Greg about this. We may push this back because we're a little unprepared for April. We don't have all of the support in line to make it happen like we did last year. The month of April is getting booked up for lots of people too. They're looking at a September/October timeframe. That will allow more time to get sponsors together and maybe change the venue. There have been concerns about cramped quarters for spectators at Lyon. They have approval from WCISA for insurance for Lyon Arboretum so if the venue changes, they'll need to get insurance for a new venue approved. WCISA's 2011 TCC was in January so we don't have to rush to send someone there. Carol suggested a possible venue in Wahiawa.

E) Landscape Pest Identification Cards

- i) Carol is working on the grant application.

a) Bills in the Legislature

- i) HB 865 – this bill would increase inspection fees for freight by \$0.25/1,000 lbs to help fund additional agriculture inspectors. The hearing is on March 17, 2011. Carol will send a letter from AAA in support of the bill.
- ii) Chris reported that LICH testified on ten bills this year. Four were on leaf blowers – HB 95 died, and HB 1592/1594 died. SB 132 limiting use to 15 minutes per property is still alive but it will die. SB 1335 on sterile plant research died. HB 632 on DOA's noxious plant rules died. HB 633 to streamline the restricted plant list died. This one states that if a species has a real economic or cultural value, like coffee, monkeypod, and coconut, we won't import additional plants into the State unless it goes through quarantine first. Chris has been testifying for the last 3 years in support of this but it died too. There's a Senate concurrent resolution 12 on water best management practices based on LICH's recommendations that is still alive. There are two bills, HB 378 and SB 287, that would make government have to use all native plants on all projects receiving federal or state funds, with various percentages. Grasses would be exempt. If you're interested, you can submit testimony. HB 378 calls for 100% mandatory. Native plants don't usually do well in urban environments – not just in Hawaii but anywhere in the world.
- iii) Steve Nimz pointed out that these issues are critical and we need to get more industry people out there to testify. Right now there's only Chris and himself showing up to most of the hearings versus all of the environmentalists and a native plant nursery. It makes us look like the bad guys. Chris added that the most successful way is to find out what committee is hearing the bill next and go down and speak 5-10 minutes. The second best

is to testify at the hearing. The third way is to submit testimony online. That takes two minutes maximum online. The squeaky wheel gets the oil. The people complaining have the time to go down there and get things done, and they show up en masse.

- iv) Chris expects the City Council to be where the leaf blower battle will be fought. Legislation is like the death of a thousand cuts. They come in every year and change one little piece of it. Steve Nimz said chain saws will be their next target after leaf blowers. John asked if we couldn't author something and get a legislator to introduce it for the native plant thing. Chris said that's what LICH is working toward. In the past, LICH would submit a couple of testimonies a year. Now they're tracking and submitting testimony on many bills. Its goal is to start writing bills. LICH told the legislature that instead of calling for all of these native plants on government projects, we should spend the money to do native plant research instead. Next year LICH hopes to have a bill introduced for \$38M for native plant research. This is the 25th anniversary of LICH. It's time to take things to a new level. Right now, AAA is the most active organization in LICH. What kinds of legislation do we need introduced? What would be a wise use of government resources? Submit our ideas to LICH.
- v) LICH is also planning to send questionnaires to candidates before the next election to determine what their positions are on different issues important to our industry so it can promote people who intend to do good things. Mark suggested setting up war chests, getting lobbyists, and running ads for/against the politicians. Chris said it's a tricky thing with legislators. You have to be friendly with them if you expect them to talk to you and listen to what you have to say. The way it works is that the Committee Chair runs the bills. Once a bill gets assigned to a certain committee, the Chair makes the decision on whether or not he likes it. If he doesn't, it never gets voted on. A legislator may support something you support on one bill and be opposed to something else you support, so it's not a good idea to burn your bridges with them.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- b) Pest of the Month – Spiraling White Fly (*Aleurodicus dispersus*)
 - i) Hosts: Recorded on 38 genera of plants from 27 plant families and over 100 different species. Common on avocado, breadfruit, citrus, coconut, kamani, Indian banyan, macadamia, mango, palm, paperbark, plumeria, sea grape, and tropical almond.
 - ii) Distribution: Native to Central American and the Caribbean region. First reported in Hawaii in 1978 and is now present on all of the major islands.
 - iii) Damage:
 - (1) Direct – damage caused by piercing and sucking of sap from foliage. Usually insufficient to kill plants.
 - (2) Indirect – damage due to accumulated honeydew and white, waxy flocculent material. The honeydew serves as a substrate for sooty mold. The flocculent material is spread by the wind and can create an unsightly nuisance.

- (3) Virus transmission – damage from virus transmission can be considerable. These viruses cause over 40 diseases of vegetable and fiber crops worldwide.

iv) Management:

- (1) Non-chemical control – five natural enemies were introduced into Hawaii from the Caribbean to control whitefly populations. Three have proven effective and provide adequate control. One ladybug controls high population densities of whitefly. Two parasitic wasps control low population densities.
- (2) Chemical control – contact and systemic insecticides recommended for other pests on the same plant hosts may temporarily reduce whitefly populations.

c) Annual Meeting Elections, April 20, 2011

- i) Steve Nimz made a motion to go to two-year terms for president and vice president. Doug seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The bylaws will be updated.

ii) The slate of officer candidates for 2011-2012 follows:

- (1) President – Steve Connolly
- (2) Vice President – Sergio Vasquez
- (3) Secretary – Carol Kwan
- (4) Treasurer – Steve Nimz
- (5) Director – Doug DeMoss
- (6) Director – Gregory Severino

- iii) Nominations were requested from the floor. There being none, nominations were closed.

- iv) Mark asked to change the venue for the Annual Meeting. He will check with Buzz's and let Carol know by March 26th.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Certified Arborist/Certified Tree Worker exams will be held on April 9, 2011, in Honolulu. Arbor Global offered a prep class but needs three more people to sign up to make it viable. If people don't even have an *Arborists' Certification Study Guide* yet, it won't make them ready for the exam, but it is a great way to hone skills and ask any questions they may have. So far there's as much interest on the Big Island as there is here. If the class is held, a percentage of the proceeds will be given to AAA as thanks for marketing the class.
- B) Steve Nimz announced that Chris has raised the bar for DOT projects. They now require six years as a Certified Arborist and two Certified Tree Workers must be on the site at all times during tree work. There will also be CLT requirements for grounds maintenance. They must be on the site at all times for grounds work plus anyone doing irrigation work must have CLT Irrigation. This should prevent some of the people who have been doing shoddy work from bidding. There should be a rush of people trying to get their people certified, especially CTWs. DOT has also taken out crown reduction and crown thinning as pay items, and no

topping/reducing height either. Crown raising and crown cleaning are in the requirements. Directional pruning for side crown reduction is still OK. Chris added that he's trying to reduce the touching of trees to things that are really obvious. Lots of what's been done in the past has been bad instead of good. There will be no more blanket crown reduction projects.

C) WCISA Conference is scheduled for May 11-13, 2011, in San Diego, CA (La Jolla).

D) Steve Connolly reported that the letter to Hawaiian Earth Products (HEP) was sent, but he hasn't heard anything back yet. Steve Nimz said that he's heard through the grapevine that they may possibly replace the scale. It's around a \$40K-\$50K repair and they only have one year left on their lease, so that has something to do with the delay. The master plan calls for industrial zoning and an industrial park for the area, so they're not sure how long their activities will fit in at the Kapaa Quarry site. Andrew asked if HEP is planning to move up past Wahiawa before the winding road to Waialua, over the crest from Schofield Barracks. Steve Nimz said that HEP had bought land over there but no announcements have been made. Andrew said that someone should open another green waste dump so HEP has some competition. It needs to be conveniently located so people don't have to travel so far. Steve Nimz responded that it costs \$2M to start and when the economy is slow, the sales of material stops and the pile grows high unless there's a fire to reduce it, but yes, HEP could use some competition. The City has a lot to do with where they direct the green waste. It's possible that HEP may have a really long contract with the City so it would be difficult for anyone else who wants to start something. Also, the City is beginning to allow food waste to go into green waste bins and that requires special treatment. It's going to be expensive and difficult. It's possible to get a minor permit to do it on open property. There are lots of upfront costs and 50%-60% of the material comes in through the City.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A) The meeting was adjourned by President Steve Connolly at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Kwan

PLEASE JOIN US!

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at **Gordon Biersch, Aloha Tower Marketplace.***

Attachments:

1. 2011 AAA Membership Application
2. LICH Landscape Hawaii Editorial Calendar and 2011 LICH Board of Directors Meeting Schedule
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Pest of the Month – Spiraling White Fly

**2011 Aloha Arborist Association
Membership Application**

Please process my membership with Aloha Arborist Association for calendar year 2011.

Membership: \$10 Student \$25 Government Employee \$50 Individual

\$150 Company \$1,000 Lifetime Member Date: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

If Company Membership, please designate 3 company representatives*:

Address: _____

_____ **Website:** _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Mobile phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

You may publish this information on the AAA website: Yes No

**Company members may send any of their employees to workshops at AAA member rates*

Please send this completed form to Aloha Arborist Association, P.O. Box 893953, Mililani, HI 96789-0953 with a check made payable to Aloha Arborist Association.

Mahalo for your support!