



Southern Soil and Water Conservation District

Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, January 30, 2024 10:00 AM

Crowne Plaza, 801 Pale San Vitores Road, Tamuning, Guam

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- Meeting was called to order at 10:19 AM, District Director Martha Tenorio conducted roll call, confirming a quorum.
- Board Members Present:
 - Chairperson: Michael Aguon
 - Vice Chairperson: Glenn Takai (Excused)
 - District Director: Yvonne Manglona-Juaneza
 - District Director: Martha Tenorio
 - District Director: Dr. Glenn Dulla
- Staff and Attendees Present:
 - District Administrator: Erica Pangelinan
 - Conservation Technician: Madeline Flores
 - Program Support Specialist: John Tanuvasa
 - Project Director: Geraldine Datuin
 - Conservation Associate: Daeline Pangelinan
 - Conservation Associate: Jonathan Borja
- Partners Present
 - Guam Coastal Management Program: Camille Quichocho
 - Guam Coastal Management Program: Carly Champaco-Munoz
 - Guam Coastal Management Program: Steven Dierking
 - Guam County Farm Service Agency: Benny P. San Nicolas
 - Guam DOAG: Ajalyn Omelau
 - Guam DOAG/FSRD: Christine Fejeran
 - Guam DOAG : Denise Crisostomo
 - Guam DOAG: Jathan Muna Barnes
 - Guam DOAG: Jessi Mariano
 - Guam DOAG: John Borja
 - Guam DOAG: Ursula Herrera
 - Guam DOAG: Ruddy Estoy
 - Guam DOAG: Ursula Herrera
 - Guam DOAG: Yolanda Topasna

- Guam EPA: Margaret Aguilar
- Guam Coral Reef Initiative: Reilly Kleven
- MCBCB/NavFacMAR: Adrienne Loerzel
- REPI Contract Support: Hazel Estrellado
- RCUOG: Alyanna Delgado
- Inalåhan Mayor's Office: Anthony Chargualaf
- Northern SWCD: Joseph C. Santos
- Northern SWCD: Jenelyn Abinales
- Northern SWCD: Norma Castillon
- Northern SWCD: Savannah Garcia
- Office of the Governor: John Ryan
- Office of the Governor: Francesca Pangelinan
- The Nature Conservancy: Patrick Keeler
- Conservancy Culture: Teddy Lee Concepcion
- UOG Technical Advisor: Mark Acosta
- University of Guam: Rachel Jolley
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services: Chad Richardson
- USDA NRCS: Jay Doronilla
- USDA USFS: Michael Jordan

II. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda — Motion to accept the agenda was made and carried without objection.

III. Welcoming Remarks — Chairman Michael Aguon opened the meeting with a warm welcome, acknowledging attendees and setting the tone for the discussions ahead.

IV. Southern District Report — District Administrator Erica Pangelinan presented the Southern District report, detailing 2024 Accomplishments and future initiatives.

V. Partner Reports

A. Guam Department of Agriculture (DOAG)

Biosecurity Division, Christopher Rosario

- Recent security training and consistent Guam Invasive Species council meetings. DOAG received additional funding from USDA (Plant Protection Act). Challenge and needed support include navigating government red flags in the procurement process.

Agricultural Development Services Division, John Borja

- Discussed ADS Department and addressing farm and farmer needs. Expressed revamping the nursery for improved sustainability. Addressed the need for feral swine management. Encouraged participation in available programs, including certifications.
- Ursula Herrera — Expressed interest in microgrants and food security, emphasizing that others should look into these. Introduced and discussed the success of the Guam Agriculture Master Plan.
- Jathan Muna Barnes — acknowledged presence, no additional comments.

Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR), Yolanda Topasna

- Discussed DAWR Kontra I Kulepbpla program and its outreach efforts. Additional support and collaborations with Mayors can assist programs and initiatives.

Forestry and Soil Resources Division, Christine Fejeran

- Discussed the 2024 Forest Inventory Survey in Guam, a broad island-wide assessment, completed 62 inventory plots across federal, private, and government lands, despite harsh hiking and environmental conditions.

Wildfire Program, Ajalyn Omelau

- Recruited staff, secured local funding, obtained restoration grants, and ensured timely product delivery.

Stewardship Program, Ruddy Estoy

- Planted 233 trees, secured a \$27K grant for tree planting at public schools, addressed wildfires, and expanded staff recruitment efforts. Address limited tree availability by providing trees to landowners and promoting grants in the Southern region.

Urban and Community Forestry Program, Denise Crisostomo

- Distributed \$27,000 to four community organizations to establish fruit tree nurseries, plant native trees in schoolyards, combat erosion, and create shaded community spaces.

B. United States Department of Agriculture, Agenices

USDA APHIS WS, Chad Richardson

- Secured intermittent funding, supporting key conservation initiatives. A challenge ensuring program consistency. Additional support from mayors can help sustain long-term efforts.

USDA U.S. Forest Service, Michael Jordan

- Continued programs; Stewardship program and the Urban and Community Forestry program. Transition under a new administration. Need to establish a consistent chain of command for project oversight. Ongoing collaborative efforts with Guam Department of Agriculture Forestry Division for the Joint Chiefs Project.

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Jay Doronila

- Currently providing incentives to landowners who implement best management practices. Received 50 applications for the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership. Struggling to keep up with the high volume of interested applicants and in need of assistance for training and capacity-building.

USDA Farm Service Agency, Ilene Iriarte

- Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops: Extended the application deadline for the assistance to February 11, 2025; and announced Round 2 application extensions for Hawaii, due March 11, 2025. Farm to Table event on February 5, 2025. Need assistance in expanding new producers' outreach efforts to engage and support new producers. Introduction of Livestock Forage Program, for various livestock orders, including cattle, deer, carabao, goats, and sheep. Deadline for the program is March 15, 2025 with \$25,000 already distributed to affected producers.

USDA Farm Service Agency Guam County Commission, Benny P. San Nicolas

- Praised the Southern Guam SWCD's capacity building and stresses the need to address wild pig issues. Suggested securing funding for holding facilities and exploring feral pig sales for consumption or feed. Urged partners to submit recommendations to the National Association of Conservation District's for federal solutions.

C. The Nature Conservancy

Patrick Keeler

- Actively partnering with the Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District. Development of the Guåhan Sentinel Landscape Implementation Plan. The plan was created in partnership with all natural resource managers on the island to ensure a comprehensive approach to conservation and land management. The implementation plan was submitted in late November 2024, and in December, the Guåhan Sentinel Landscape received its official designation. To maintain momentum, focus on collaboration, funding, and strategic initiatives.

D. NAVFAC

Adrienne Loerzel

- Successfully managed 170 feral pigs, advanced Cocos Island procurement, and hosted a productive working group conference. Identifying strategies to secure federal funding for agencies and organizations with the capacity to effectively utilize the resources.

E. Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District

Joseph C. Santos

- Discussed the role of the Northern SWCD. Overview of its initiatives, contributions to land and water management, and ongoing conservation efforts. Highlights upcoming events in March. Upcoming scheduled partner meeting and its objectives for collaboration and resource planning.

Savannah Garcia

- Entered the pre - application phase for the feral swine perimeter fencing grant; 10 applicants. Began recruiting for the Educators Symposium, scheduled for July 23, 2025. NSWCD seeks to strengthen collaboration with SGSWCD in order to maximize their collective efforts and achieve greater impact.

F. Guam Coastal Management Program

Steven Dierking

- Discussed the success of the Guam Forest System Plan in partner collaboration with the Guam Department of Agriculture. Upcoming workshops in August 2025 and surveys to be released.

Camille Quichocho

- Facilitated the first advisory meeting for 2025. Would like Southern Guam SWCD to assist in expanding program efforts.

Carly Champaco Munoz

- Submitted project proposal for the Western Wildlife Interface Grant. Seeking funding. Reviewing outdated regulations and policy changes. Collaborating with a new partner to build capacity.

G. Office of the Governor

John Ryan

- Acknowledged presence. Present to observe and take notes for the Governors office.

Francesca Pangelinan

- Acknowledged presence.

H. UOG Cooperative Extension & Outreach

Mark Acosta

- In 2024, UOG had successful outreach workshops and lectures, engaging and supporting new producers effectively. Overcoming limited staff and capacity while ensuring consistent collaboration with all partners. Finding effective strategies to attract more people into programs and increase participation.

I. Inalåhan Mayors Office

Anthony Chargualaf

- Need for increased youth involvement in farming to ensure the future of agriculture. Insufficient number of local food providers to meet growing demand for fresh sustainable produce.

VI. Next Meeting

- The FY2025 Bi-Monthly Partner Meeting session is scheduled for March 12, 2025.

VII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

VIII. Minutes Prepared By:



Daeline Pangelinan, Conservation Associate

Approved By:



Yvonne Manglona-Juaneza

Secretary



Michael E.D. Aguon

Chairperson

02/26/2025

Date

02/26/2025

Date