



Southern Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 4:00 PM

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

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- Meeting was called to order at 4:13 PM, Secretary Yvonne Manglona-Jauneza conducted roll call, confirming a quorum.
- **Board Members Present:**
 - Chairperson: Michael Aguon
 - Vice Chairperson: Glenn Takai
 - District Director: Yvonne Manglona-Jauneza
 - District Director: Martha Tenorio
 - District Director: Dr. Glenn Dula
- **Staff and Attendees Present:**
 - District Administrator: Erica Pangelinan
 - Conservation Technician: Madeline Flores
 - Program Support Specialist: John Tanuvasa
 - Project Director: Geraldine Datuin
 - UOG Technical Advisor: Mark Acosta
 - UOG Technical Advisor Northern District: Dr. Robert Bavaqua
 - Northern District Chairperson: Joseph Santos
 - Northern District Manager: Jenelyn Abinales

II. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda

- Motion to accept the agenda was made and carried without objection.

III. Approval of Minutes – November 20, 2024

- Motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2024, was made and carried without objection.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer presented the financial report, detailing the balances in various accounts:
 - General Fund: \$108,956.81
 - Stress Grant: \$1,969.25 (officially closed; pending transfer to General Fund)
 - TA 2023: \$11,104.89
 - GACD TA 2021: \$23,843.88
 - Savings: \$1.20

V. USDA NRCS District Conservationist Report

- With District Conservationist Jay Doronila on leave, John Tanuvasa provided updates:
 - 22 applicants referred through outreach, with eligibility letters being processed.
 - Discussion addressed the need for board adoption of NRCS-developed conservation plans, with a decision to wait for Jay's return.

VI. Southern District Membership Update

- Conservation Technician Madeline Flores provided an update on membership recruitment efforts.
- Six new members were presented for approval and accepted without objection.

VII. Old Business

a. Next Generation Leadership Institute Cohort

- Vice Chairperson Glenn Takai provided updates on his capstone project for the Farmers Cooperative Association of Guam (FCAG).
- Highlights included collaboration with stakeholders and review of the 2015 strategic plan.
- Glenn's presentation is scheduled for December 19, 2024, at 10 AM Guam time.

b. FY2025 Action Plan Development

- A draft FY2025 Action Plan was shared for review, focusing on conservation outreach and partnerships.
- The board scheduled a strategic planning session following the board meeting to finalize the plan.

c. 2025 NACD Annual Meeting

- Travel arrangements and participation in the NACD Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, were confirmed.
- Motion to increase NACD membership dues to Platinum Level at \$3,001 approved and carried without objection.

VIII. New Business

a. NACD Executive Board Member Training - Report

- Michael Aguon reported on Executive Board Members Training. Key topics included governance improvements and strengthening relationships between board and staff.
- Travel report to be submitted for final approval by next meeting.

b. WUI Grant Proposal

- The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grant Proposal in partnership with Guam Department of Agriculture and Guam Fire Department was presented.
- The board approved the proposal without objection.

c. NACD Resolution Proposal

- A resolution to increase reimbursement rates for remote states was reviewed.

- The board agreed to strengthen the proposal, focusing on underserved farmers and submit by deadline. Resolution to be approved and submitted to NACD by Pacific Region.

d. Southern District Strategic Planning Session – January 29, 2025

- The session was rescheduled to January 30, 2025, to accommodate scheduling conflicts.

e. 2024 Annual Report

- A draft of the 2024 Annual Report was discussed, with a submission deadline of December 31, 2024.

f. 2026 Proposed Budget

- The proposed budget, totaling \$438,976, was presented and approved without objection.

IX. Collateral Boards and Committees Served

a. Southern Guam Feral Swine Committee

- Geraldine Datuin provide updates on the Feral Swine Perimeter Fencing Grant including the development of guidelines and materials for approval by Board.
- Geraldine to provide guidelines to the board by next meeting.

b. Guam SWCD Working Groups

A. Long Range Plan (LRP) - Yvonne Manglona-Juanes

- The group is collaborating with Northern District Director Thomas Tanaka Jr. to update the LRP strategic framework.

B. SWCD District Office - Dr. Glenn Dulla

- The group is in communication with Northern District Director Marlene Rivo addressing office organization and safety, with a focus on ensuring compliance with UOG fire code standards. Dr. Dulla emphasized prioritizing updates to the current office space.
- The board requested the Northern District ensure proper protocol and/or coordination with Southern Board before sending official memos regarding shared assets.

C. SWCD Poster Contest - Martha Tenorio

- The group finalized the winners and submitted the overall winner to NACD. An award ceremony is scheduled for January 7, 2025, at Machanano Elementary School.
- Erica Pangelinan recommended that Southern District write a check for the overall winner, with reimbursement to Northern District for remaining prizes.

D. GACD Account - Martha Tenorio

- The group convened with the Northern District Director Kathrina Reyes on December 17 via Zoom but had to pause due to misaligned objectives. Martha emphasized the need to settle outstanding taxes, with plans to reconvene once additional information is available.

E. SWCD Mandates - Michael Aguon

- The group discussed updates following a meeting with Senator Sabina Perez, focusing on refining GACD mandates under SWCD requirements. Further development of these mandates is planned.

F. SWCD Election - Glenn Takai and Mark Acosta

- The group is preparing for the upcoming election. Michael Aguon requested that the Northern District appoint a Director representative to join the working group.
- Erica to submit Active District Registry to Mark Acosta.

c. Guam Watershed Planning Committee

- The next meeting is scheduled for December 30, 2024, at 9 AM.
- Director Yvonne Manglona-Juaneza to represent.

d. Guam Invasive Species Committee

- The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2025, at 10 AM. Biosecurity Training January 14-16, 2025.
- Chairman Michael Aguon and Dr. Glenn Dulla to represent.

X. Board Correspondence

- Drafted letter to NRCS addressing Guam's concerns was reviewed and sent..

XI. Public Comment / Announcements

- The FY2025 strategic planning session is scheduled for December 18, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

XII. Executive Session

- The board entered an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

XIII. Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

XIV. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Minutes Prepared By:



Erica Pangelinan, District Administrator

Approved By:



Yvonne Manglona-Juaneza
Secretary

01/15/2025

Date



Michael E.D. Aguon
Chairperson

01/15/2025

Date