



Southern Soil and Water Conservation District
Bi-Monthly Partner Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 4:00 PM
University of Guam, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Building, Rm 202

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM.
- Chairperson Michael Aguon conducted a roll call, confirming a quorum.

Board of Directors:

- Chairperson: Michael Aguon - Present
- Vice Chairperson: Glenn Takai - Unexcused
- District Director: Glenn Dulla - Present
- District Director: Martha Tenorio - Excused
- District Director: Yvonne Manglona-Juaneza - Present

Staff Present:

- District Administrator: Erica Alvarez (EA) - Present
- Conservation Planner: Madeline Flores - Present
- Project Director: Geraldine Datuin - Present
- Conservation Associate: Jonathan Borja - Present
- Conservation Associate: Daeline Pangelinan - Present

Also Present:

- District Member: Rey Llaneta
- District Member: John Peralta
- District Member: Jennifer Peralta
- Northern Guam SWCD: Bill McDonald
- Northern Guam SWCD: Frank Santos Jr.
- Guahãn Sentinel Landscape: Patrick Keeler
- Guam Beekeepers Association: Maria Schefter
- Guam Department of Agriculture: Chelsa Muna
- Guam Department of Agriculture: Shaylin Salas
- Guam Department of Agriculture: Amber Powers
- Guam Department of Agriculture: Jeffrey Quitugua
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services: Jathan Meno
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services: Chad Richardson
- USDA APHIS Wildlife Services: Charlene Hopkins

- USDA NRCS: Jay Doronila
- UOG: Lisa Salisbury
- UOG: Henin Pamintuan
- UOG Drone Corp: Andrea Velasquez
- UOG Technical Advisor: Mark Acosta
- UOG Soil Scientist: Christianah Oladoye
- UOG Technical Advisor: Roland Quitugua
- UOG Extension/District Member: Dr. Robert Bevacqua
- Guam Environmental Protection Agency: Margaret Aguilar

II. Acceptance of Meeting Agenda — District Director Dr. Glenn Dulla motioned to accept the agenda as presented and published in the Guam Daily Post as required, which carried without objection.

III. Approval of Minutes — (09/22/2025)

- EA noted that the minutes from the September 24, 2025 meeting were presented and previously approved.

IV. Welcoming Remarks & District Updates — Chairperson Michael Aguon provided welcoming remarks and underscored the district's mission and commitment to conservation, emphasizing trust, teamwork, and respect. He reiterated the district's role as a locally led entity representing producers and thanked partners and farmers for their continued support. District Administrator EA provided the district updates as follows:

- She reported that the district is strengthening its team, with staff well-versed in education and outreach, and noted that several members are pursuing NRCS Planner Certification to enhance technical capacity. EA shared that the district is preparing a grant proposal to continue the Technical Assistance Program, with the goal of increasing conservation plans and practice adoption. She also announced an upcoming island-wide survey in collaboration with the Guahãn Sentinel Landscapes Partnership, with the survey link to be distributed by Patrick Keeler. Additionally, the district will host its inaugural District Membership Meeting to foster member engagement. EA also announced that Guam will serve as host for the NACD Pacific Southwest Region Meeting from August 24–28, 2026.

V. Partner Spotlight — EA introduced Dr. Christianah Oladoye, Assistant Professor of Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition at the University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

- Dr. Christianah Oladoye expressed her interest and commitment to working with the community and local farmers. She highlighted her background in horticulture and drip irrigation, noting that 25% of her role involves extension work. She encouraged individuals to reach out for support and welcomed feedback on how she can best serve the community, providing her contact information for follow-up.

VI. Partner Reports — Partners were invited to share impacts of the recent federal shutdown. Feedback will be submitted to NACD, which is gathering information nationwide.

A. University of Guam, Drone Corp — Andrea Velasquez

Andrea Velasquez leads the farm mapping efforts for SG-SWCD. She reported that (24) farms have been mapped, with (9) remaining, and that the recent shutdown had minimal impact on operations.

B. USDA NRCS, Jay Doronila

Jay Doronila reported the USDA NRCS office recently returned from furlough and is receiving guidance on resuming normal operations. He noted that the FY26 CSP and EQIP application deadline has been extended to January 25, 2026, and provided leadership updates, including the reassignment of Aster B. and the appointment of Emily F. as the new West Regional Director. Also reported that CSP payment delays occurred due to the shutdown and that guidance is pending for releasing payments. Additionally, it was suggested to invite the new NRCS Chief, Aubrey, to the Pacific Southwest Meeting and to encourage annual leadership visits.

C. USDA Wildlife Services, Chad Richardson

Chad Richardson leads the USDA APHIS WS feral swine control program and noted that cooperative agreements allowed work to continue during the shutdown. He reported that active traps are deployed in the southern region with multiple recent captures. Funding support is expected to continue pending DOA signature approvals.

D. Northern Guam SWCD

The Northern Guam Soil & Water Conservation District announced that its first board and staff training is scheduled for December, with ongoing collaboration planned with SGSWCD and the local working group. The partnership agreement with Island Girl is progressing, and both boards are scheduled to review the 2027 budget draft.

District Director Bill McDonald (NG-SWCD) shared that he is assisting a producer with tunnel construction, which was temporarily paused during the shutdown. He expressed concerns regarding federal benefits but noted that he was able to manage overall. He also emphasized his primary role as a farmer.

District Director Frank Santos Jr. (NG-SWCD) shared ongoing challenges with erosion, downed trees, fire ants, and wet-season conditions. He stated that the federal shutdown added stress and contributed to delays in addressing these issues.

E. District Member/Farmer, Rey Llaneta

Rey Llaneta, a retired military member and farmer, encouraged the use of informal potluck gatherings as a way to share information and strengthen community connections. He noted that the military-affiliated group discusses food security concerns daily, with the shared goal of building community resilience.

F. Guam Environment Protection Agency, Margaret Aguilar

Margaret Aguilar from Guam EPA shared that Guam currently has (31) impaired fresh and marine water bodies, with the TMDL plan addressing fish tissue contamination, including PCB issues. She reported that GEPA is collaborating with the Coral Reef Initiative and partner agencies to address litter and watershed impacts, and that a coral mortality event occurred in Piti following heavy rainfall. GEPA is updating its non point-source plan and integrated report and is seeking public feedback.

G. Guam Department of Agriculture (DOAG), Chelsa Muna-Barnes

Director Chelsa Muna-Barnes of Guam DOAG reported that the FY26 budget was cut by over 400,000, leaving \$32,000 after obligations. Efforts are ongoing to access lapsed funds and continue hiring. The nursery is operational following minor fire ant treatments, with two new trucks secured for farm visits. She shared that anticipated federal impacts on staffing and operations are being monitored and that funding for pig management and GHURA CDBG VR funds for nursery improvements are being pursued. Additional vehicles and trapping equipment have also been secured. Funding for the micro-grant program, paused during the shutdown, is back on track, and the FY26 state plan is awaiting federal approval. Forestry community grant applications will open in January (\$45,000 total, \$10,000 per project) to support urban forestry and community planting, and the Sentinel Landscapes MOA finalized. A (\$250,000) sub-grant is allocated for feral pig and dog trapping, with additional conservation officer hires planned. Low applicant turnout was noted for grant-funded positions requiring skills in trees, native plants, or animal handling.

- **Technical Guidance - Permits**

A surge in grading permit requests was noted, with approximately (12) received in one week. Positions remain available for endangered species and wildlife conservation work.

- **Local Produce Procurement**

Agencies are encouraged to purchase locally, with (70) farmers expressing interest in becoming government suppliers. Efforts continue to match produce needs quarterly and streamline processes.

- **Community Listening Sessions**

Quarterly sessions continue with leadership present to address public questions. The RFSI Grant is in final review, with MOA's expected by December.

- **Mentored Hunts**

In partnership with Guahån Sustainable Culture, free hunter education courses were offered on November 22, 2025, with mentored hunts planned January-April 2026 at the Hamamoto property and an island-wide corporate hunt scheduled for May during pig harvest season. These events also provide opportunities to monitor invasive species such as hornets.

- **Ayap Workshop**

Facilitated with support from SG-SWCD Director Martha T., the workshop focused on the sterile ayap (pandanus) used for weaving. Plans are underway

to plant ayap in public spaces, and tree planting was conducted on campus during Arbor Month.

VII. Announcements

- Next Bi-Monthly Partner Meeting: January 14, 2025

VIII. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Minutes Prepared By:
Daeline Pangelinan, Conservation Associate

Approved By:



Yvonne Manglona-Juaneza
Secretary



Michael E.D. Aguon
Chairperson