



National Association of Conservation Districts

Pacific Region Meeting

Marriott Rivercenter Hotel San Antonio, Texas
Sunday February 3rd, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.: Kit Tillotson

- Welcome and introductions
- Roll call order – Idaho, California, Guam, Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii, and Guam are in attendance. Absent – Alaska, Palau, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, and Northern Mariana Islands. Quorum is obtained.

Minutes:

Washington moved to approve the minutes of the Pacific Region Meeting held in Kennewick, Washington; California seconded. Vote: unanimous; Passed.

Officer Candidate Visit:

- Michael Crowder – Officer Candidate for 2nd Vice President spoke a few words for the group. He is running unopposed this year so just wanted to say thank you for all of the support he has been given.

NACD Update:

- Wade Troutman (Executive Board) is stepping down and said thank you for allowing him to speak for the Pacific Region.
- Tom Wehri (California) will be taking Wades place on the Executive Board. Wade congratulated him and hopes everyone will give Tom their full support.
- Wade also welcomed Ariel Rivers as our new Pacific Region Representative. He hopes we will all take advantage of her and her knowledge.
- Tom is very excited about his position and asked everyone to please speak out and contact him with any issues that they may have.

NACD Pacific Region Representative Ariel Rivers:

- Introductions / Background from Ariel.
- Important dates: Technical Assistance Grants due March 1st, NACD Fly-in March 13th, Summer Meeting and Joint Pacific / Southwest meeting August 2-6 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Ariel encouraged everyone to consider the Conservation Planning Bootcamp. It is an excellent resource.
- Discussion on District agreements with NRCS
- Please share your story – Ariel would really like to have you send her events, successes, or anything that she can use for sharing points.
- Asked for anyone to volunteer for the Parade of States.

Committee/RPG Reports:

- Forestry: Doug Rushton (WA) – see attached
- Urban Ag: Vicki Carter (WA) – Urban Ag in new Farm Bill – creating a strategic plan – 1st meeting that they will have in person



National Association of Conservation Districts

- Public Lands: Tom Wehri (CA) – Trying to revitalize – encourages participation
- Tribal: Michael Crowder (WA) – Cassius Spears from Rhode Island is new – continued communication within the states is a must – trying for face to face meetings – all tribes are invited to the summer meeting in Santa Fe. Roylene – there are now 187 tribes participating and they are continuing to educate tribes about Districts and also Districts about tribes.
- Coastal: In a state of flux – need information from Districts to continue on their work plan – Please submit names for participation and email to Ariel
- **New Appointments:**
 - Idaho moved to submit Matt Woodard (ID) for the Public Lands RPG; Hawaii seconded. Vote: unanimous; Passed.
 - Mae Nakahata (HI) volunteered to sit on the Invasive Species RPG committee.
 - Terri Preeg Riggsby (OR) volunteered to sit on the Urban RPG committee.
 - Pat FitzGerald (OR) volunteered to sit on the Coastal RPG committee.

State Reports / State Resolutions:

- Idaho – see attached
- California – see attached
- Oregon – see attached
- Guam – see attached Annual Report that contains both Northern and Southern Guam Districts
- Hawaii – see attached and also voiced their thanks to NACD for all of their support.
- Washington – see attached

All Districts have/and or will submit their reports electronically to Ariel.

Resolutions from Washington were discussed.

Open Discussion:

- Past President Association – Discussion
- The Southwest Region is hosting the Joint/Summer meeting in Santa Fe this August so the Pacific region will be hosting it in 2020. There was discussion on Hawaii possibly being the hosting state at that time. They would be very happy to do so and they will look into it.

NCDEA Report:

- Tom Salazar (OR) thanked all employees and staff for their continued support of Districts.
- 2019 is the year to now reconnect with its members. NCDEA is working very hard on its networking and websites.

California moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m.; Idaho seconded. Vote: unanimous; Passed.

Respectfully submitted by,
Chris Hatch

**California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Pacific Region Report, Feb 3, 2019**

Capacity Building

With generous support from private and public funders, CARCD has developed a robust capacity building program over the past several years that aims to increase the impact and sustainability of CARCD, build the capacity of individual RCDs, and increase the reach and influence of the RCD statewide network.

CARCD's revenue development activities in 2018 included hiring a revenue specialist and launching the network's first community giving campaign, supporting RCDs with developing Fee for Service programs, and refining our membership dues structure. There was also a major focus on building the individual capacity of RCDs through individual projects. Ten RCDs from across the state received assistance from Solid Ground Consulting on projects including organizational planning, community assessments, and strategic planning.

Seven cohorts of RCDs across the state received facilitated durable collaboration support this year. Each group is in an exploratory process to outline how they might work together to improve their collective access to resources and organizational efficiency and begin to work on a regional scale—across district boundaries—to address critical conservation issues.

CARCD provided several leadership training opportunities to RCD staff and directors this year, with facilitation services and curriculum development provided in partnership with Solid Ground Consulting. Two separate 1.5 day Board Leadership Boot Camps were held, the first in Applegate, CA in February and the second near Fresno in September. A total of 32 individuals from 19 RCDs attended the trainings. Additionally, three advocacy trainings were held in April in Sacramento. A total of 36 individuals from 17 RCDs participated. The day-long trainings were followed by a second day of legislative visits at the State Capitol, where participants met with their legislators (or legislative staff) to bring visibility to their districts and build relationships with their elected leaders.

In the summer, CARCD worked with consultants to develop a new messaging and communications platform for the RCD network. RCDs from across the state will be participating in an online Communications Academy in early 2019 to receive customized instruction on how to best take advantage of the new messaging platform.

CARCD launched a redesigned website in October, along with an improved RCD Member Dashboard where district staff and directors can log in to access resources and proprietary information designed to support RCDs in achieving their missions.

Forestry

RCPP

In fall of 2018, CARCD hired a full time forest health project manager. She was brought on to administer the \$10 million Resource Conservation Partnership Program grant through NRCS to address tree mortality in the Central Sierra. CARCDs efforts to bring resources to bear on the ongoing tree mortality crisis effecting our communities, is further supported by grants from CalFire, PG&E, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. These grants provide financial support for on the ground coordination related to the grant and the development of outreach materials and workshops as well as support the collaboration of local groups with RCDs on forest health issues in the region.

Soil Health

In 2018, CARCD financially sponsored two RCD soil health hubs, including 4 individual RCDs work on soil health and carbon farming. CARCD held the 3rd annual Soil Health Summit in conjunction with the CARCD annual conference. CARCD remains engaged in the California Farm Demonstration Network and is building a carbon farming network of RCDs and our partner the Carbon Cycle Institute.

Outreach to Historically Underserved Producers

In partnership with NRCS, CARCD is in our fourth round of offering competitive “mini-grants” of \$2,000 to further outreach to minority demographics of producers which include ethnic minorities. CARCD expands the definition of historically underserved producers to include women farmers, LGBTQ farmers, and veteran farmers. In 2018, 9 mini-grant awards were distributed to RCDs and other non-profits. This funding generated and/or supplemented projects that include: Three short films on soil health, a Punjabi soil health workshop, translation of best management materials into Hmong, a Hmong conservation workshop, a half day conference for Latino farmers of a farmer incubator program.

Water Efficiency and GHG Reduction

Statewide Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, also know as SWEEP, is administered by the California Department of Food and Agriculture in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from irrigation sources and increase water use efficiency by funding system infrastructure and monitoring upgrades that reduce greenhouse gases. CARCD received a grant from the Department of Water Resources to further the outreach of SWEEP. The purpose for this assistance is to ensure agricultural irrigation systems are operating at maximum efficiency in a range of locations and crop types. RCDs provide technical assistance to growers to educate producers about the funding opportunity and water use efficiency, create a water/irrigation conservation plan, assist with the application process, provide verification and provide irrigation evaluations pre- and/or post implementation. 13 RCDs are involved in this project and are holding more than 14 application assistance workshops in unique locations for the 2018/2019 8th round of SWEEP.

Conservation in Cannabis

CARCD recognizes the role of RCDs to promote stewardship and conservation among all working lands, regardless of crop type. CARCD is creating a cannabis conservation program where RCDs will work to educate cannabis producers about available resources and BMPs in an effort to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of our natural systems. CARCD is supporting the RCD’s local efforts while continuing to advocate, educate, and deepen partnerships at the state level. CARCD participated

in producer workshops in partnership with the State Water Control Board from Santa Barbara to Humboldt.

SOUTHERN GUAM
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Inside This Issue

Who We Are & What We Do

Fiscal & Program Performance

Looking Ahead



WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO



The Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District (SGSWCD) along with the Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District (NGSWCD) are Government of Guam bodies established to work in partnership with the University of Guam, and in cooperation with all government of Guam entities overseeing local and federal programs that promote the use of conservation, development and the use of soil and water resources on Guam in order to control and prevent soil erosion and flooding, and to improve agriculture water management.

The Guam SWCDs are operated by a Board of Director who serves as elected officials by local farmers, farmland owners, or land occupiers to fulfill duties set forth by Title 5 of the Guam Code Annotated Chapter 71.

Together the Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts strive to be Guam's leading conservation organization for the protection of Guam's natural resources through locally led stewardship and best management practices. The Boards further create and advise on policies for the protection of the island's natural resources; educates the community and policy makers on the value of natural resources and the impact of human made activity has on our island's environment and ecosystem; and promotes good stewardship through community outreach and education.



2016-2019

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Mission: "To promote, sustain and support the conservation of Guam's soil and water resources; be good stewards of our environment; build community, and instill sustainability."

Vision: Promoting stewardship through the conservation of our soil, water, and natural resources for our island.

GOALS

- Steward & Develop Guam's Agricultural Industry and Conservation Reserves
- Actively Engage & Build Relationships with the various Island Communities
- Develop Team Capacity and Organizational Culture
- Strengthen Organizational Systems and Structures

OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify, Inventory, & Facilitate Management of Conservation Areas & Agricultural Zones.

OBJECTIVE 2: Invasive Species Management & Control

OBJECTIVE 3: Support & Facilitate Education & Outreach

OBJECTIVE 4: Strengthen Organizational Systems and Develop Team Capacity

OBJECTIVE 5: Build Board and staff capacity to better function and serve as an organizational unit in with the local and federal sectors of government systems.



THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT

"Southern Soil and Water Conservation District, or Southern District, means the area organized pursuant to this Act as that area covering the southern area of Guam—the "entire" area designated as Southern Guam by the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific (WERI), University of Guam, as published in the 2007 Geologic Map and Sections of Guam, Mariana Islands, as amended, with the Adelup-Pago fault extending across the narrow waist of the island and forms the structural boundary between the northern and southern parts of the island" P.L. 31-125:2

2016-2019 SGSWCD DISTRICT DIRECTORS

- Benny Chargualaf, **Chairman**
- Angelita Mendiola, **Vice Chair**
- Carol Tayama, **District Director**
- Michael Aguon, **District Director**
- Brian Leon Guerrero, **District Director**

SGSWCD DISTRICT STAFF

Erica Pangelinan, District Manager
Linda Reyes, Outreach Specialist
Audrey Meno, Program Support Assistant

GSWCD DISTRICT PARTNERS

University of Guam (UOG)
UOG Center for Island Sustainability (CIS)
UOG Sea Grant
Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District (NGSWCD)
Guam Department of Agriculture (DoAG)
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
Chamoru Land Trust Commission (CLTC)
Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

This year's

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

OBJECTIVE 1: Identify, Inventory, & Facilitate Management of Conservation Areas & Agricultural Zones

UCUM Watershed Restoration

The SGSWCD entered into a service agreement with UOG Sea Grant to support the study and restoration of Guam's UCUM watershed. UCUM watershed is a significant water source located in the southern district. Over the years, activities such as wildfires, wild pigs, off roading, and other human activity have greatly contributed to soil erosion and sediment run-off. Sediment run-off and soil erosion has ultimately lead to impaired water quality and the destruction of Guam's coral reefs. The GROW initiative focuses on researching innovative tools to reduce sediment run-off. The Southern District committed \$27,500.00 to purchase aircraft machinery, which will be used to disperse seeds in critical planting areas hard-to-reach.

The SGSWCD looks forward to the positive results and findings of the two-year long study in hopes of finding a new solutions that would help combat the soil erosion issues affecting the southern villages.

SGSWCD continues to raise awareness of the impacts soil erosion has on our island and promote best management practices available to help mitigate sediment run-off.



Map of Guam: Photo credit to the University of Guam Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific.

Chalan Layong Tree Planting & Maintenance



In 2015, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency; Guam Department of Agriculture; USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service; the Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District; and the Inarajan Mayors Office coordinated a tree planting in Chalan Layong of Inarajan. The site was identified as a critical planting area that would help reduce sediment run-off from the UGUM

Watershed. Maintenance of the tree planting site has become neglected due to lack of man-power and a cohesive adopt a tree program. Vice Chairwoman Angelita Mendiola recruited the Department of Corrections parolee services to begin the maintenance effort. The UOG Serenity Lions Club also joined in the efforts to keep the tree planting area maintained. The committee works to explore different options to continue maintenance efforts though a community based "adopt a tree" program.



*Honorable Mayor Doris Flores Lujan (center).
Photo credit: www.inarajan.com.*



Guam Department of Agriculture's Forest Stewardship Coordinator Belmina Soliva explaining the different native species planted in Chalan Layong during the tree flagging effort.



Guam Environmental Protection Agency's Margaret Aguilar chopping down invasive weeds that are overtaking the native species in Chalan Layong.

OBJECTIVE 2: Invasive Species Management & Control

Guam Feral Swine Program

The SGSWCD entered in to a working agreement with the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) to control and manage feral swine populations through the use of coral traps. Feral swine causes erosion issues, carry diseases, and are dangerous when encountered. The pilot program proves to be successful and in great demand by public land owners. According the Guam Invasive Species Council Management Plan, feral swine is included as one of the top priorities for invasive species management. The demand for the traps are growing and the need to have a permeant feral swine program is apparent. During FY2018, the SGSWCD increased the local match to \$20,000.00. A total of 604 pigs have been removed in FY 2018. As the SGSWCD struggles with receiving its mandated allocations, the Districts proposes the Guam Invasive Species Council take the lead as the local entity to partner with USDA APHIS WS to eradicate and control feral swine population on a much larger scale for the island of Guam.

604

**FERAL PIGS
REMOVED IN FY 2018**



FERAL SWINE DISEASES FOUND ON GUAM

(1) **Leptospirosis**; transmission through urine and animals bodily fluids; can last for weeks in contaminated soil outside the animal's body. Bacteria usually contracted by humans through drinking contaminated water. Contact with bacteria through breaks in skin, and mucus membranes in eyes/nose/mouth. Can cause kidney/liver damage, meningitis, in people. <https://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/infection/index.html>

(2) **Brucellosis (SB)**; bacteria found in reproductive tract of swine, fetus, other body fluids, milk and poses high risk to unprotected hunters or anyone handling swine. <https://www.cdc.gov/brucellosis/transmission/index.html>

(3) **Pseudorabies virus (PRV)**; the virus is passed directly via nose to nose contact and indirectly via contact with urine or feces. The virus can live for up to two weeks in the environment. Pseudorabies is a fatal disease in dogs and cats. Dogs used for hunting feral swine are particularly at risk for contracting and dying from pseudorabies. Symptoms are similar to rabies including excessive salivation, scratching that can lead to self-mutilation, and a lack of coordination or paralysis, but animals infected with pseudorabies will not display an aggressive behavior as do rabid animals (Thiry et al. 2013). There is no vaccine to prevent pseudorabies in cats or dogs. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw388>

(4) **Japanese Encephalitis (JeV)**; JeV is a virus distributed by mosquitoes and vertebrate hosts, mainly pigs and wading birds. Humans can be infected when bitten by an infected mosquito. A small percentage of people infected with JeV develop inflammation of the brain (encephalitis). About 1 in 4 cases are fatal. There is no specific treatment for JeV. <https://www.cdc.gov/japaneseencephalitis/>

See also: 1. Toxoplasmosis and 2. Salmonella.

Information provided by the
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

OBJECTIVE 3: Support & Facilitate Education and Outreach

2018 Guam Soil and Water Educators Symposium

The Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts hosted another successful Educators Symposium on July 26, 27, 28, and 31, 2018 at the University of Guam. This year's theme focused on "Guam: Our Water, Our Home".

The annual event is dedicated to teaching Guam's educators about the importance of soil and water conservation. Every year, the Guam SWCDs collaborate with the Guam Department of Education to recruit teachers who are interested in incorporating conservation in their classrooms using STEM methodologies. The symposium includes class lectures and a field-day designed to meet the requirements of the PIP for the option of earning 2.0 graduate credits from the University of Guam. This year thirty-six participants successfully completed the symposium. The Districts work to engage previous symposium participants to showcase their conservation curriculum used in their classrooms. Sponsors of the event include Bank of Guam, Coast 360, Guam Visitors Bureau, and Main Street Delicatessen. The Northern and Southern Guam SWCDs continue to work together to promote good stewardship of our island's resources through education and outreach.



6th Annual Educator's Symposium



2018 Center for Island Sustainability Conference



2018 Kika Camp Session 2 at the COTAL forest



2018 Guam Invasive Species Awareness Week



2018 Stewardship Week and Proclamation Signing

In 1955, the National Association of Conservation Districts began a national program to encourage Americans to focus on stewardship. Stewardship Week is officially celebrated from the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. To kick off the 2018 Stewardship Week, the Northern and Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts held a Proclamation Signing on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex. The official signing recognizing Stewardship Week (April 29-May 06, 2018) took place under the breezy canopy of the Daok trees. Stewardship Week is one of the world's largest conservation-related observances. Stewardship Week helps to remind us all of the power each person has to conserve natural resources and improve the world. When everyone works together with their local conservation district, that power continuously grows.

Community and Partner Outreach Efforts

The SGSWCD continues to collaborate and support partner programs in an effort to promote the conservation of Guam's precious natural resources through good stewardship and best management practices.

SGSWCD Sponsored Events

- 2017 Pig Hunting Derby
- 2018 Center for Island Sustainability Conference
- Bureau of Statistics and Plans GCMP Kika Clear Water Camp
- 2018 International Coastal Clean-up
- NOAA Tree Planting

UOG CNAS Collaborative Workshops

- 2017 Pig Hunting Derby
- 2018 Center for Island Sustainability Conference
- Bureau of Statistics and Plans GCMP Kika Clear Water Camp
- 2018 International Coastal Clean-up
- NOAA Tree Planting

Community Outreach Events

- 2017 Arbor Day
- Trick or Trees
- 2017 Pork In the Park
- Guam Invasive Species Awareness Week
- UOG Charter Day
- Kids Freshwater Fishing Derby
- Valley of the Latte River Festival
- GCMP Kika Clearwater Session 1 and 2

OBJECTIVE 4: Strengthen Organizational Systems and Develop Team Capacity

National Association Conservation District (NACD) Membership



The SGSWCD's appointed NACD representative, District Director Carol Tayama, attended the 2018 NACD Annual Meeting (Jacksonville, Tennessee) and the Pacific Joint Region Meeting (Kennewick, Washington). Guam's representation during committee meetings and conference is crucial to ensure Guam's input is included as NACD lobbies congress for programs needed to best serve the region's farmers and natural resource concerns.

NACD Technical Assistance Grant SGSWCD acquired their first grant this FY2018. The grant allows SGSWCD to hire two (2) part-time employees to service the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services. Employees provide program support to NRCS help alleviate administrative duties, which allows planners to get more field time and conservation on the ground.

NRCS Conservation Bootcamp Training (CBCT)



Pictured: Successful participants of the 2018 Conservation Bootcamp Training during the September Session



Pictured: SGSWCD employee Erica Pangelinan during a field day with NRCS Guam Field Office at Manhita Farms.

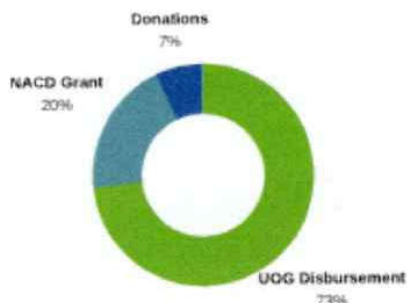
Aspiring Conservationist and SGSWCD employee, Erica Pangelinan, attended the National Conservation Employee Development Center's Conservation Boot Camp Training. The training consisted of an intense three week program teaching NRCS employees and affiliates the 9-step conservation planning process, planning policy, and planning procedure and guidelines according to the National Planning Policy Handbook. The NACD sponsored Ms. Pangelinan's attendance. With this new found professional development, SGSWCD can assist NRCS in developing conservation plans for farmers and district cooperators. Pangelinan is the first ever SWCD affiliate in the Marianas to attend the CBCT.

a year's overview

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fiscal Performance: Income

According to Guam Public Law 34-42 Chapter II Section 7, the amount of \$149,384.00 is to be disbursed through UOG and divided amongst the two (2) Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts for FY2018. The SGSWCD received \$64,935.86 and was shorted \$9,756.14.



Fiscal Year 2018 Income

\$85,935.86

UOG Disbursements

\$64,935.86

NACD Grant Funding

\$15,000

Symposium Donation

\$6,000.00

Fiscal Performance: Expenses

More than half of the SGSWCD's budget was dedicated to the support of conservation programs and district staff. The SGSWCD invested majority of its funding into the UGUM Watershed restoration project and the Feral Swine Pilot Program.

Fiscal Year 2018 Expenses

\$138,199.75

Conservation Program Support

\$78,800.58

District Employees

\$39,712.99

Grant Employees

\$11,665.85

Professional Development

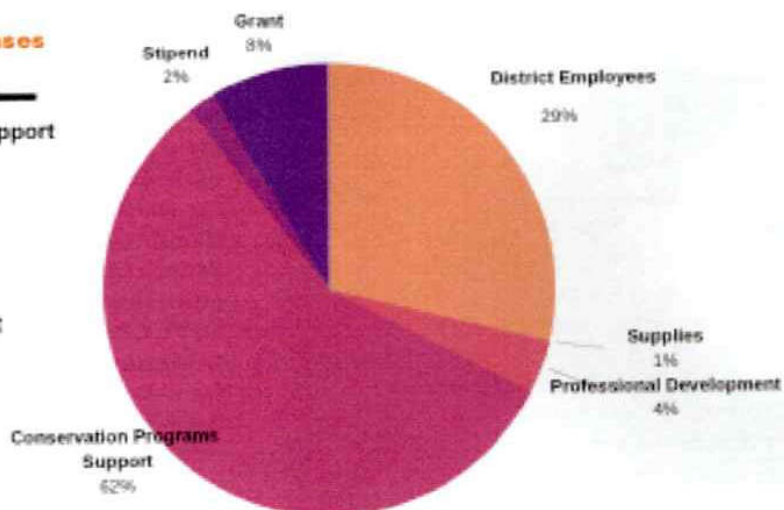
\$5,120.33

Director Stipends:

\$2,700.00

Supplies

\$200.00





LOOKING AHEAD

The Guam SWCDs play a vital role within Guam's natural resources community by serving as the voice of their district cooperators; promoting the protection of Guam's soil and water resources through conservation and best management practices; and encouraging good stewardship through outreach and education. However, the island's economic challenges continues to affect the value of Guam SWCD services. Issues concerning untimely release of mandated District allocations; restricted administrative and technical capacity; and disconnected partnerships make it difficult for the SGSWCD to fully effectuate their mandates and powers vested by its authority. The Board looks forward to reexamining its strategic plans to better service its farmers, ranchers, partners, and affiliates. Additionally, the SGSWCD team is exploring different funding opportunities to increase district value and build staff capacity. Moreover, The SGSWCD Board has shifted priority objectives to increase conservation plans on agricultural lands; increase feral swine management on farm lands; engage public awareness of soil and water conservation and best management through outreach; and strengthen existing partnerships.

2019 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- **OBJECTIVE 1:** Host Stakeholder Session and generate updated strategic plan for term 2020-2023.
- **OBJECTIVE 2:** Assist USDA NRCS to increase conservation plans and EQIP awards on Guam.
- **OBJECTIVE 3:** Support & Facilitate Education & Outreach to district cooperators.
- **OBJECTIVE 4:** Acquire funding to maintain, inventory conservation areas and/or reserves.
- **OBJECTIVE 5:** Strengthen Organizational Systems and Develop Team Capacity

Partner Directory

- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection (APHIS) Guam Wildlife Services | Tel: 671.635.4400
- Bureau of Statistics and Plans (Guam Coastal Management Program) | Tel: 671.475.9672
- Chamorro Land Trust Commission
Tel: 671.649.5263
- Department of Agriculture
Tel: 671.735.3942
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Tel: 671.300.8552
- Guam Environmental Protection Agency | Tel: 671.300.4751
- Håya Foundation | Tel: 671.727.7717
- National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) | Tel: 671.300.8586
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service | Tel: 671.300.8591
- UOG Center for Island Sustainability | Tel: 671.734.0478
- UOG College of Natural and Applied Sciences | Tel: 671.735.2050
- UOG Sea Grant | Tel: 671.735.2142

REMINDING OUR PEOPLE

Conservation Matters
24/7

SOUTHERN GUAM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS? FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US!
EMAIL: SOUTHERNGUAMSWCD@GMAIL.COM OR DISTRICT OFFICE: 671-735-2014 |



Sunday, February 3, 2019
Pacific Region Meeting
Marriott Rivercenter
Conference Room 15
1:00-3:00 PM

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts Report

The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD) is comprised of 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) throughout the state of Hawaii. While each of these districts have a common goal, to work with our communities in helping to protect and sustain the islands natural resources, each of these districts may have different environmental conditions and each island has specific county codes to follow.

HACD and the 16 SWCDs are currently discussing how the Districts can be more consistent regarding the signup of cooperators and the processing of conservation plans. A special area of concern has been conservation plans that are created by 3rd party planners. HACD and the Hawaii SWCDs consider any/all plans that are not created by a District, HACD, or NRCS planner, a 3rd party plan. Due to the liability that this places on our board members (follow-up requirements, Hawaii State designated land zone restrictions, grading and grubbing exemptions, etc...) it has been an ongoing concern that a majority of Hawaii SWCDs have decided not to accept such plans.

With valid concerns of liability, uniformity and fair practices, one way that HACD is considering approaching this is by incorporating general guidelines within its Bylaws. While this option has just been introduced into discussion, we are hoping that this will lead to a common agreement between the Districts. Once this takes place, it will allow for consistency across the islands and give new board directors guidance.

Like other states, Hawaii is always concerned about invasive species and diseases that have done damage to our islands. While we still are fighting against Rapid Ohia Death, or ROD (a disease that has killed hundreds of thousands of our native `Ohi`a trees throughout Hawaii), we have also been faced with an increased amount of people

contracting Rat Lungworm disease (spread by slugs and snails and caused by improper handling of produce), and have seen the Little Fire Ant (LFA) spread from the Big Island of Hawaii, to Maui, Oahu and now, a case has been reported on Kauai. While state government, along with the District directors, planners and staff, try to do their best to educate our cooperators and the general public, many of these threats spread rapidly between the islands. Still, we continue to do our best and keep in mind the safety and well-being of our residents and visitors alike.

As far as funding efforts, we are fortunate to have a Legislative Committee, led by an indispensable chairperson, Mae Nakahata. We have also received an amazing amount of support from the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). For the past several years, HFB has introduced a legislative bill requesting state funds for HACD, and the 16 Hawaii SWCDs. These monies have funded our operating budget, four Conservation Specialists (one specialist located on each of the main islands) and our Executive Director. For several years now, our legislative committee has worked closely with HFB to secure state funds and is currently working to secure funds for next fiscal year.

Finally, we would like to thank NACD for their many ways of support. Through the NACD Technical Assistant Grant, we were able to hire two part-time Program Assistants (one on Kauai, one on Maui) to assist with data and customer support of EQIP programs, as well as CTA. We look forward to applying for the grant again this year so that we can extend the services being provided by our current program assistants. We are also thankful to NACD for providing our planners with the opportunity to attend Conservation Planning Bootcamp. Without this support from NACD, we would not be able to afford to send our planners to this required training. In turn, this would set our planners back further in fulfilling the necessary requirements to receive their certification... Mahalo!

Idaho Association of Conservation Districts

Pacific Region Report, Feb 3, 2019

During the past 4 months IASCD has been very active. After reporting to the Region in September, IASCD has been involved in the following activities.

Our annual conference was held in November in Post Falls, Idaho. The conference was well attended and we received many compliments on this year's program.

Association Directors spent December 18 and 19 in Boise visiting agencies, departments and companies discussing how to strengthen and build relationships with Districts. Meetings were held with the following:

Idaho Transportation Department - Wendy Terizzi, Environmental Services Manager, Aimee Hill, 404 program & mitigation Bureau of Land Management - Acting Director Peter Ditton

Office of Species Conservation - Sam Eaton, Interim Director, Sam Edmundson, Joshua Uriarte

Idaho State Department of Agriculture - Director Gould

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality - Director John Tibbets

Environmental Protection Agency - Nick Peak, Agriculture Advisor

Idaho Department of Lands - Director Dustin Miller

Idaho Power Company - Ralph Meyers, Env. Manager - Allison Murray, Env. Manager - Jennifer Visser, Govt. Affairs

NRCS - State Conservationist Curtis Elke

Two weeks ago IASCD was in Boise for the following events:

IASCD Winter Board Meeting and joint ISWCC Meeting

Legislative Social

Capitol Display Day

Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission Meeting

Food Producers of Idaho Meeting

Idaho Ag All-Stars Banquet

ISWCC JFAC Budget Presentation

Last week IASCD:

Meetings with our Congressional Delegation, NRCS, the National Association of Conservation Districts and the National Farmland Trust.

Meetings with BLM, Department of Interior, USDA, US Forest Service and EPA.

Participation in the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference

In the following month we will presentation to the following legislative committees:

House Ag Affairs

Senate Resources and Environment

House Natural Resources

Oregon Update
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)
February 3, 2019

- **OACD Structural and Functional Assessment**

The OACD held a strategic review meeting in Newport, Oregon in mid-November 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to take an all-encompassing review and assessment of OACD's structure, function, and governance systems and processes. Over 60 representatives from 27 districts attended the meeting. Eight committees were formed covering: advocacy, communications, dues, governance, OACD Services, partnerships, resolutions, OACD board composition. The work of the committees will be considered and voted on as needed at the upcoming April and November Annual Meetings.

- **Candidate Conservation Agreement Assurances (CCAA) for Sage-Grouse**

In partnership with NRCS, OACD and involved SWCDs have been heavily engaged in establishing CCAs in the Great Basin area to implement habitat enhancing conservation measures. Over the past three years, the involved districts have established 60 Site Specific Plans covering over 520,000 acres. Another 360,000 acres are in progress.

- **Tide Gates**

Oregon has over 1,000 tide gates protecting agricultural lands and infrastructure, many of which are aging and in need of repairs. Tide gate repairs or replacements can be costly due to fish passage concerns, and time-consuming due to inefficient permitting processes. OACD is a member of the steering committee that guides the state's efforts to improve tide gate policies and processes. Through the steering committee and public meetings, OACD has advocated for policies that increase support for the SWCDs and other local partners who implement tide gate projects, reduce administrative burdens, and are responsive to on-the-ground challenges and regional differences. In the 2019 Oregon Legislature, the Association of Oregon Counties and other tide gate partners are proposing the establishment of three positions to support the streamlined tide gate process.

- **Agriculture Heritage**

64% of Oregon's 16.3 million acres of agricultural land will change hands in the next 20 years. To address this problem, the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) was established to provide funding and support for agricultural conservation and succession planning. Although the program was established with bipartisan support, it was not funded beyond the initial processes to establish the program's rules and processes. This Legislative Session, OACD is continuing to work with a diverse range of OAHP advocates

including Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Environmental Council, and Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts to advocate for funding. The \$10 million we are requesting from the Oregon legislature would help bring matching grants (e.g. from the NRCS ALE program) to Oregon's SWCDs.

- Climate Change Policy with Investments in Working Lands

The 2019 Oregon Legislature is expected to pass the "Clean Energy Jobs Bill," a cap-and-trade carbon emissions policy that also creates several funds for investment in rural communities and further climate change mitigation and adaptation. OACD represents Oregon's SWCDs on a work group informing how revenue from the cap-and-trade system will be invested in conservation on working lands. Conservation practices that SWCDs have practiced for decades contribute to resilience to extreme weather events, and to reducing emissions. We continue to work with state agencies and other conservation and agricultural organizations to ensure the policy reflects the importance of our work to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- Other

- The Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network OCEAN will again be delivering conservation based technical training, professional development, education, assistance, and networking opportunities to 150+ conservation district employees in Sunriver, Oregon April 9-11, 2019. Attendees from outside the state have participated on a space available basis. More info: https://oceanconnect.org/connect_2019.php
- OACD Annual Meeting will be held April 9 at the Sunriver Resort at the 2019 CONNECT Conference.
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act: Oregon is deeply invested in Greater Sage Grouse conservation, the funding for which is limited. The federal Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) would redirect \$1.3 billion of existing revenue to the implementation of state Wildlife Action Plans. In Oregon, outdated funding mechanisms for our Department of Fish and Wildlife had curtailed the implementation of programs that impact SWCDs and their constituents. Increased federal funding would greatly benefit Oregon's SWCDs and their constituents.

Notable Events Summary Report
Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Pacific Region Meeting, February 4th, 2019 – San Antonio, TX

NATIONAL SCOPE

Tribal Relationships. Established July, 2013, WACD's Tribal Outreach Task Force, along with NRCS, continues fostering cooperation and coordination with Tribes. Chaired by NACD 2nd VP Michael Crowder (and Benton CD supervisor), Washington is represented on the NACD Tribal Outreach and Partnership Resource Policy Group (Tribal RPG) by Larry Davis (Whatcom CD). <http://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/tribal-outreach-partnership/>

NACD grants to WA CDs (with NRCS support)

- Four staff from WA attended the three week NRCS Conservation Planning Boot Camp in Lincoln, NB. Only Hawaii in Pacific Region had more attendees.
- Nine Washington CDs received Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants for \$446,255 (of \$625,000 for Pacific).
- NACD secured a \$10 million agreement with NRCS enhancing conservation district technical assistance of which four Washington CDs received a combined total of \$213,252.
- Washington had six Soil Health Champions. More than any other state in the Pacific Region.

Forestry RPG. The Pacific Region of NACD is represented on the forestry RPG by Doug Rushton of Washington state. He convened a region-wide call in summer, 2018. <http://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/forestry/>

STATE-WIDE SCOPE

New Slate of WACD Officers

- President Jeanette Dorner; jeanetted@pierced.org
- Vice-President Javier Lopez; javier-lopez@conservewa.net
- Past President Mark Craven; oldhalloween@yahoo.com
- Secretary Larry Davis; lcdavis48@gmail.com
- Treasurer Wendy Knopp; wendy-knopp@sccd.org
- National director Doug Rushton; doug.rushton@conservewa.net

WACD established a Long Term, Sustainable Funding Committee

- Working with the state Conservation Commission, funding asked via the Governor's Office was many times larger than previous requests. Committee's efforts are ongoing, ducks are being aligned, and the group will strategically work with partners, and within WACD, in their efforts.
- Conservation Commission and conservation district 19-21 state budget request – information and materials are at: <https://scc.wa.gov/19-21/>

MORE WACD

- WACD finance committee and the Plant Materials Center (PMC) committee were merged for organization efficiency and streamlining. PMC represented on the finance committee and serves an advisory role to the PMC manager.
- Legislative days scheduled on January 28-29 in Olympia. <http://www.wadistricts.org/legislative/legislative-days.html>

Orca Recovery Day - Puget Sound Orca Recovery Day held November 10 with participation from CDs across the state and 11 of 12 Puget Sound CDs. The story of the mama orca carrying her dead baby made national news focusing attention on the habitat needs of Chinook salmon, a key prey species of the orca. On short notice, it demonstrated our conservation partnership not only responded quickly to a crisis but was proactive in presenting actionable solutions for our citizens and our state. <http://snohomishcd.org/events-workshops/2018/11/10/puget-sound-orca-recovery-day?rq=orca%20day>

Tidbits

1. Thurston CD goes union in May 2018; the first CD in the nation to do so.
 2. At the Fall 2018 NACD Pacific Region meeting, Kit Tillotson (ID) was re-elected chair and Doug Rushton (WA) was elected vice chair.
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Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts Executive Committee by Doug Rushton, National Director

NCDEA

NACD Pacific Region meeting
February 3, 2019

WHO:

- Tom Salzer, Pacific Region Director for NCDEA
- General Manager, Clackamas SWCD near Portland, Oregon
- Serve 400,000 people with 17 staff members

WHAT:

- Serving as the NCDEA Pacific Region director since May 2017
- I chair NCDEA's Communications Committee and represent NCDEA on the NACD Communications Committee and on the Tribal Outreach and Partnership RPG
- Our alternate director is Vicki Carter with the Spokane Conservation District in Washington
- Vicki sits on the Urban and Community Conservation RPG

NCDEA spent 26 years focused on getting a seat at the table where national priorities and programs are debated and decided. We have accomplished that goal. We are there.

But along the way we become somewhat disconnected from our 7,000 members across the country and territories. 2019 marks the year we reconnect. (Much of this information is in a presentation I gave at the Tri-State Conservation Commission meeting. Find that presentation at <http://bit.ly/NCDEAStrategy2018>.)

How? All regions are now fully represented by NCDEA regional directors. For the first time in many years, we have full coverage. We've already seen a doubling in dues-paying states and we attribute this to the increased engagement of having all regions covered. In the Pacific Region, we saw Idaho pay NCDEA dues for the first time in many years.

NCDEA's website looks tired and not very friendly. At this NACD annual meeting we are launching a new website at <https://ncdea.us>. The new site is designed to work well on mobile devices. It presents a high-level view of NCDEA so if you don't know who we are or what we do, the NCDEA.us site will be informative.

To help reconnect our members, we are simultaneously launching the NCDEA Network. This is an online discussion group that keeps members updated through email. This is very exciting because we finally have a tool to help us crack the barriers caused by distance and isolation. Many conservation district professionals do feel isolated and unable to get help from their peers. The NCDEA Network will open this doorway for them and we are very pleased to be able to provide this service.

My year in the Pacific Region was very full. I attended various state agency and association meetings in California, Oregon, and Washington to gain a deeper understanding of how they are similar and where they differ. I connected better with state agency leaders in several states. I reached out to leaders in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, and Guam.

Throughout the year I had almost daily interactions with members throughout the region. Working with Oregon and Washington folks is relatively easy because of my history in those two states. Members in other places are sometimes a bit more difficult to get to know, but the number and quality of relationships are increasing. For NCDEA, building capacity in the conservation delivery system starts with building relationships with our members.

The slogan on the front of the new NCDEA.us website shouts in big, bold letters: We Make Conservation Better. That's what conservation district professionals do. Every day they strive to serve their communities better than the day before. They seek to improve their skills. They build new relationships and nurture existing ones. Conservation district employees are lifelong learners, always working to improve the conservation delivery system. NCDEA is very proud to be able to support these efforts. Together, we make conservation better.

COASTAL CONSERVATION NETWORK
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The recent catastrophic weather events in the coastal areas of our Nation have been poignant reminders of how important and how exposed our socio-economic and natural resources are in Coastal America. A Coastal Network of Conservation Districts could address resource management issues (to the benefit of our constituents) to aid our current/future partners.

The Conservation Districts of the 30 states and 7 territories recognized that coastal areas are vital to our Nation. Not only do the coastal areas contain the majority of our Nation's population, but these areas are critically important to food production, national security, commerce, energy production and the tourism – recreation economies. Since the only nationwide natural resource conservation delivery programs are operated by the 3000 Conservation Districts, a Coastal Conservation Network could share technical expertise and serve as a liaison to Conservation partners, most specifically to all federal and state agencies in resiliency planning, resource assessments and response to natural and man-made catastrophic events.

It has been determined that Conservation Districts within the coastal states have active natural resource management programs and share the challenges of addressing many common problems, often associated with impacts on natural resources by natural events and human activities. There are many conservation opportunities to address these challenges, especially in light of the recent catastrophic hurricanes attacking our southern states and territories. The diversity of agencies, organizations and citizens working with Districts are potential partners that (a) can value District resources, (b) provide sources of funding or leveraging of funds to assess risks to coastal resources, (c) serve as a primary local governmental agency point of contact during catastrophic events and (d) implement conservation programs and practices that assess risk and plan for resilience on the local level.

It is time to explore opportunities for partnering and sources of funding for the Coastal Conservation Network, including a diversity of federal programs/agencies, and within States, units of state, county and local government, in addition to private businesses and foundations and NGOs.

In summary, the Coastal Conservation Network, supported by the existing Conservation Districts, can focus on coastal issues, including identifying and sharing expertise, technical information, partners and funding resources to improve the resilience of the Coastal populations and environs.

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February 2, 2019

Forestry RPG Update – NACD 2019 Annual Meeting, San Antonio

1. Updating forestry RPG **strategic plan**.
2. **Updated 2019 forestry RPG priorities**.
3. Concern that **Executive order calling for better forest management** on public lands –Washington state has raised the question that section 6 doesn't include working with local governments (*i.e.* Conservation Districts, Counties etc..) but the federal government will work with any non-profit, which is disconcerting considering CDs long history in dealing with these issue. Not to mention potentially leaving local CD's at the mercy of the state forestry agency.
4. Proposal for NACD to identify **forestry items in the Farm Bill** and how they relate to Conservation Districts.
5. **Forestry network** – with impetus from Mike Beacom, our regions have reached out to our states and territories to act as a conduit (both ways) for forestry information. Recent interactions have focused on state forestry plans, working with wildlife groups, how to be a better partner, the Farm Bill, and anything else



National Association of Conservation Districts

Invasive Species RPG Feb. 2, 2019

Notes from this morning's meeting
Submitted by Mae Nakahata, Hawaii

Invasive species is an important issue for all states in NACD.

- Need to develop criteria for addition of new species on the NACD list
 - States that propose new listing should provide background information relating to submission
 - Concepts: consistent with proposed definition; impact to multiple states; impact to human health
 - Research into criteria for current federal listing
 - Discussion about Wild horses and impact of Wild Horses and Burro Act - need to narrow what is covered e.g. what if horse goes from private to public lands; unowned vs. feral
 - Identify areas where NACD and districts can make a difference
- Rapid Response procedures when new invasive is first detected
 - Role of districts to assist in getting the word out
 - Clearing house of information?
 - State Technical Committee -- key for coordination?
- Discussion about invasive species management on public lands vs. private; Work on private lands can be futile if public lands are not managed
- Discussion about President Clinton's Executive Order Relating to Invasive Species
 - How can we impact current Invasive Species Council
 - What is current status of activity of council since measure was ordered
- Western Governor's Invitation to participate in a Webinar on Invasive Species
 - Look for stories to share from Districts
- Farm Bill has \$75M to APHIS/NRCS for pilot feral hog management
- Example of Missouri Feral hog control - stop hunting on state land to remove value of hunt