

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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CONSERVATION MATTERS 24/7

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303 UOG/CNAS University Drive, Mangilao Guam 96923



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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

This Annual report documents our activities that have occurred during the 2020 Fiscal Year (FY) covering October 01, 2019 to September 30, 2020. While there were significant challenges adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic, the District had numerous accomplishments and achievements.

The SGSWCD stays committed to serving as the voice of their district cooperators; protecting Guam's soil and water resources through conservation and best management practices; and encouraging better stewardship through education and outreach. The SGSWCD Board successfully accomplished its FY2020 goals and objectives to include reexamining its long-range strategic plan; identifying and acquiring innovative funding opportunities; increasing conservation plans on Guam; and continuing to raise the value of the Guam SWCDs both locally, regionally, and nationally.

The Board looks forward to completing its Long Range plan which would essentially serve as the Guam SWCD's guiding document of strategic efforts for the next five years.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2022

- Michael Aguon, Chairperson Budget and Finance Committee Lead
- Angelita Mendiola, Vice Chairperson
 Education & Outreach Committee Lead
- Carol Tayama, District Director District Operations Committee Lead
- Glenn Takai, District Director Policy and Legislative Committee Lead
- Jonathan Manglona, District Director (resigned 12/21/2019)

STAFF

- Erica Pangelinan, District Administrator
- Linda Reyes, Outreach Specialist

PARTNERS

- University of Guam (UOG)
- Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District (NGSWCD)
- Guam Department of Agriculture (DoAG)
- ✓ Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
- USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services (AHPIS-WS)
- Guam Department of Land Management (DLM)
- CHamoru Land Trust Commission (CLTC)
- Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

COMPANY OVERVIEW

ABOUT US

The SGSWCD is Government of Guam Board established by Guam Public Law 31-125:2 that works with government agencies and private land owners to promote the conservation of Guam's soil and water resources.

The District is operated by a Board of five Directors who are the designated officials elected by Guam's registered bonafide farmers and land owners. Each Director serves a term of three years. The Guam SWCD Elections are held on the second Tuesday of August of Election year.

The University of Guam serves as the technical advisor to the Guam SWCDs and is also the designated pass through authority for funding. The University of Guam is responsible for hosting the Guam SWCD elections.

NEXT GUAM SWCD ELECTION AUGUST 2022



OUR VISION

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



OUR MISSION

- Promote, sustain and support the conservation of Guam's soil and water resources.
- Be good stewards of our environment.
- Build community, and instill sustainability.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

The Southern Soil Guam and Water Conservation District, or Southern District, means 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.

SOUTHERN MUNICIPALITIES AND MAYORS

- ✓ M02- Agat Kevin J.T. Susuico, Mayor
- ✓ M03 Asan-Maina Frankie A. Salas, Mayor
- M06 Inarajan Anthony P. Chargualaf, Mayor
- ✓ M08- Merizo Ernest T. Chargualaf, Mayor
- ✓ M09- Piti Jesse L.G. Alig, Mayor
- ✓ M11 Talofofo Vicente S. Taitague, Mayor
- ✓ M12- Umatac Johnny A. Quinata Mayor
- ✓ M14 Yona Bill A. Quenga, Mayor
- ✓ M18 Santa Rita Dale E. Alvarez, Mayor

ACTIVE DISTRICT REGISTRY

The Guam SWCDs shall cause all farmers, farm land owners or land occupiers, as appropriately registered with the Guam Department of Agriculture or the Department of Land Management, to register as active members of each district.

2020 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Goal 1 — Actively engage with Partners to enhance collaborative opportunities, approaches, and accomplishments.

Strategy 1: Host the 2020 Guam Local Working Group Meeting

The Guam Local Working Group (LWG) convened at the Guam Service Center on Oct. 2019. Representatives in attendance included the Northern and Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts; University of Guam, Cooperative Research & Extension Service; Guam EPA; and USDA APHIS.

The participants discussed current natural resource issues impacting Guam's farmers and ranchers; as well as other residents. The important issues discussed were: negative impact of wild pig damage; sedimentation impacting water quality in the Ugum watershed; sedimentation and its impacts on coral reef health; protection of ground Northern Guam Lens Aquifer; and loss of agriculture lands due to development.



FY2021 TOP 5 PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS

- Soil Quality Limitations
- Pest Pressure
- Wind and Water Erosion
- Field sediment, nutrient, & pathogen loss
- Degraded Plant Condition and Fire Management

FY2021 TOP 3 PRIORITY AREAS

- Northern Guam Lens Aquifer
- Ugum Watershed
- Forest Lands



Strategy 2: Participate in the 74th National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting

The SGSWCD with the Guam Association of Conservation Districts attended the NACD's 74th Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. 1 This year's Annual Meeting highlighted many technologies and innovations that exist and are in use today that impact conservation delivery on the ground. NACD's goal this year at the 74th Annual Meeting was to elevate conversation and how we can better integrate these innovations across the public and private sectors.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

- Coastal Resource Policy Group (RPG)
- Invasive Species RPG
- Urban & Community RPG
- Natural Resource Policy Group Committee Committee Meeting
- NACD Board of Directors Meetings
- Pacific Region Meeting
- Joint Southwest & Pacific Region Meeting

EVENTS

- First Timer's Session
- Expo Grand Opening
- Conservation Expo
- Leadership Luncheon
- National Foundation Conservation Live
- General Session
- Appreciation Banquet

AFTER ACTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen Guam SWCD Policy and Legislative Committee efforts and acquire feedback from partners on proposed NACD Resource Policies and Resolutions.
- Actively participate on assigned RPGs to stay informed and advocate the needs of Guam.
- Establish the GACD in order to provide strengthened structure for NACD representation.
- Pursue Possible Grant Opportunities available to the Guam SWCD such as—NACD Urban and Community; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and NACD Urban and Community Grant.
- Conductre search on possible implementation of story mapping, data gathering, and services.
- Look into innovative Watershed restoration opportunities and programs.
- Continue to support and compile Educator Symposium Materials and resources from NACD and other conservation groups.



Strategy 3: Actively Participate and Engage with Collateral Boards Served

DOAG FOREST STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The SGSWCD provided input and comments into the the Guam Dept. of Agriculture's Forestry & Soil Resources Division State Action Plan. The SAP is the department's guiding document for forestry management decisions and actions based upon identified local goals and objectives that align with national guidelines.

The SAP is required by the USDA Forest Service for Guam's eligibility to receive funding and is updated every five (5) years. In an effort to promote urban agriculture and urban agroforestry, the SGSWCD and the University of Guam CNAS recommended DOAG's Forestry nursery incorporate more edible fruit tree varieties.

GUAM INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

The Guam Invasive Species Council (GISC) is established by Tile 5 Guam Code Annotated Chapter 70 for the special purposes of protecting Guam from alien species that threaten our economy, culture, ecosystem and human health; and providing policy direction, coordination, and planning among government of Guam departments and federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species and the monitoring, control and eradication of invasive species throughout the island of Guam. The SGSWCD represented at the GISC regular meetings held on January 16, 2020 and July 22, 2020.

The SGSWCD voted in favor for the establishment of the Green Waste Sub-Committee to address proper green waste management on the island. The initiative was introduced by the UOG CNAS in where the Guam SWCDs will serve as the committee members. The SGSWCD continues to actively participate in the quarterly GISC meetings, Advisory Committee Meetings, and Subcommittees. The SGSWCD looks forward to establishing a strengthened and collaborative partnership with GISC to best address feral swine impacts and other invasive species issues.



GUAM GREEN GROWTH INITIATIVE (G3)

The Guam Green Growth Initiative develops tangible solutions to sustainability challenges and contributes to a green economy for the island region. In September 2019, Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero and Lt. Governor Joshua F. Tenorio promulgated Executive Order 2019-23, creating an 80-member Working Group of government, academia, private sector, non-profit, and youth partners to transition Guam toward a sustainable future. The executive order assigned the facilitation of the Working Group to the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability.

The SGSWCD is a member of the G3 working group and provides input and support into the Healthy and Prosperous Communities Team. The G3 working grouplaunched its first working group meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2020 at the Guam Museum. Chairman Michael Aguon represented on behalf of the SGSWCD. USDA NRCS Pacific Islands Area Director Travis Thomason joined Aguon during the working session. The SGSWCD continues to actively participate in the working groups to ensure soil and water conservation efforts and priorities are included into the the development of the G3 work plan.



NACD PACIFIC REGION COMMITTEE

In 2019 representatives from the GACD, NACD, and NRCS established a working group in an effort to increase participation amongst the Pacific Basin Islands. The committee meets once a month to strategize opportunities that would engage other pacific islands that have not yet participated in NACD and NRCS programs. The committee members include Dr. Ariel Rivers, NACD Pacific Region Representative; Travis Thomason, Director of USDA NRCS Pacific Island Region; Michael Aguon, GACD President; and Erica Pangelinan, SGSWCD Manager.

GUAM ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The Guam Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts held its first official meeting of the fiscal year on January 08, 2020 in where the new GACD officers were elected. The newly elected officers are as follows: Michael Aguon, Kathrina Reyes, Vice President; Carol Tayama, Secretary; Angelita Mendiola, Treasurer; and Glenn Takai, Member-At-Large. The official swear in of the GACD Officers took place on February 03, 2020 and was officiated by Senator Clynt Ridgell. During FY2020, the GACD successfully amended its Bylaws for the first time ever since establishment in 2008. GACD continues to works to update its strategic plan, strengthen its operations, and build capacity.



Goal 2

Engage with Southern District residents and landowners in understanding the value of SWCD's mission in protecting, conserving, and restoring Guam's natural resources.

Strategy 1: Provide Conservation Assistance to Private Land Owners



NACD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The SGSWCD continues to prioritize providing technical assistance to southern district farmers, ranchers, and landowners. Grant funding received from the NACD allows the SGSWCD to contribute support the USDA NRCS Guam Services in order to increase conservation on Guam. District personnel provides the Guam Service Center with essential program support dedicated to growing participation in the USDA NRCS's conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The District plans to expand its team and increase district capacity to provide a wider range of technical assistance and services.

GUAM FERAL SWINE PROGRAM

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (APHIS-WS) and the Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District (SGSWCD), continue the Guam Feral Swine Program for its fourth year. As part of the cooperative agreement, USDA APHIS-WS removes feral swine (Sus scrofa), which impact the economy, the ecosystem, and human health and safety, on private lands on Guam. APHIS-WS utilizes snares, traps, and active removal to control feral swine on private properties. The SGSWCD provides contact information and other information necessary to support control on the targeted properties within their district. During the Fiscal Year 2020 a total number of 451 pigs have been removed in the southern district 44.% were positive for pseudorabies and 12% positive for swine brucellosis.



Strategy 2: Support Conservation Programs and Initiatives

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM GROW INITIATIVE

The Guam Restoration of Watersheds (GROW) Initiative develops innovative solutions to reduce land erosion and subsequent sedimentation on downstream coral reefs. In 2018, SGSWCD provided sponsorship of \$27,000 to purchase a drone that would disperse seed balls in hard to reach areas of the UGUM Watershed. SGSWCD Linda Reyes, provided assistance to the GROW team by recruiting private landowners to participate in the program.



Strategy 3:

Participate and Engage in Conservation Education and Outreach Activities

2020 ARBOR DAY OCT. 29, 2020

The SGSWCD participated in the Guam Department of Agriculture's Annual Arbor Day Event. Staffers hosted an interactive booth teaching the students about the role trees play in conservation. Students were asked to identify their village on a map and which Guam SWCD they belong.

GEPA PESTICIDE TRAINING-Jan 21, 2020



The Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) in collaboration with AgSafe and Syngenta hosted a Pesticide Safety Training for Growers on January 21 at the Dededo Farmer's Cooperative and on January 22, 2020, at the Inarajan Community Center. About 50 participants attended the northern session and 62 participants attended the southern session. Local agencies and organizations supported the workshop to promote the safe use of pesticides on Guam farmlands. Partners include the University of Guam, the Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Farmer's Cooperative Association of Guam, and the Inarajan Mayor's Office.

UOG CHARTER DAY MARCH 10, 2020 5

The SGSWCD hosted an interactive outreach booth during the Charter Day event where more than 6,000 people enjoy a family atmosphere with a fun-filled day of food, games and activities. This year's theme: Local Inspiration, Global Impact where UOG celebrated its greatest achievements. Conservation staffers Erica Pangelinan and Shania Alvarez helped participants identify which District.



2020 CIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE MAY 01 - JUNE 12, 2020

The SGSWCD sponsored the Annual Center for Island Sustainability Conference. Due to the pandemic, the conference was held virtually. The conference received 16,112 views from 80 countries, states, and territories. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference pivoted to a 7-week virtual conference series from May 1-June 12, 2020. Plenary sessions were held for 1.5 hours once a week, followed by a 30-minute virtual networking reception



PRESENTATION TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF GUAM MEMBERS OCT. 24, 2020

The Rotary of Club Guam invited the Southern District and the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability to give a presentation on collaborative efforts and programs. Chairman Michael Aguon delivered a speech focused on the importance conserving Guam soil and water resources amongst agriculture producers. Aguon introduced Dr. Austin Shelton to speak on behalf of the GROW Initiative and other Initiatives introduced by UOG Center for Island Sustainability

UNTALAN MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR COMPETITION FEBRUARY 27, 2020

The SGSWCD representatives were invited to participate as judges for the Untalan Middle School Science Fair Competition. Erica Pangelinan represented on behalf of the District to as a science fair judge.



STEWARDSHIP WEEK APRIL 26, 2020 MAY 03, 2020

The Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts celebrated Stewardship Week and reminded the public that we all have a responsibility to protect our natural resources. The National Association of Conservation Districts and the Guam SWCDs celebrated the 65th year of Stewardship Week, April 26 – May 3, focusing on the theme "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?" Pollinators form the underpinning of a healthy and sustainable future for food and the environment. Residents are encouraged to practice being better stewards by planting local plants, eating and buying local produce and more.



FARMER'S COOPERATIVE SUPPORT

Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Farmer's Cooperative Association of Guam provided assistance to the Agriculture Industry in an effort to help the people of Guam get fed and the farmers paid by launching the first ever Curbside Program. The program distributes \$20 fresh produce bags at the Farmer's Market site every Wednesday. The SGSWCD provided staff support during the Wednesday pick-up days to bag, sort, and distribute the fresh produce. The SGSWCD is proud partner of the Farmer's Cooperative and has many plans to strengthen its partnership to better serve the farmers of Guam.





Goal 3

Develop Team Capacity and Organizational Structures

Strategy 1:
Complete mandatory
Board and Staff Trainings
as required by Government
of Guam Law.

BOARD EDUCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM OCT 18, 2020

The newly elected SGSWCD directors successfully completed its Boards and Commissions Educational Program on October 18, 2019. As required by Title 5 Guam Code Annotated Chapter 43 Boards and Co mmissions, each board or commission shall have an educational program established to prepare its members for the duties of the board or commission to which they are appointed. Such educationalprogram shall cover procurement laws, as applicable, applicable statutes, executive orders, and rules and regulations which govern the board or commission and their respective areas of purview. Training Completed (Pictured from Left): Carol Tayama, SGSWCD; Angelita Mendiola, SGSWCD; Joseph Santos, NGSWCD; Michael Aguon, SGSWCD; Kathrina Reyes; Marlene Slomka, NGSWCD. Not pictured Glenn Takai and Jon Manglona, SGSWCD.





Strategy 2:
Standup Internal
Committees for efficient
District Efforts and
Operations.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

During the first official SGSWCD board meeting of the newly elected directors held on September 23, 2019, Board created internal District committees to ensure

Directors collaboration and seamless operations of district activities.



Strategy 3: Hold Monthly Regular Board of Directors Meetings

SGSWCD REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

As mandated by law, SGSWCD held regular board meetings every month for partners, farmers, and affiliates. To best accommodate both partners and district business, SGSWCD hosts two meetings a month. Meetings provide an opportunity for District partners to collaborate and coordinate on projects and activities. The SGSWCD meetings are held in accordance to the open government law.

FY2020 Meetings Held

- September 23, 2019
- October 04, 2019 (Joint SWCD Meeting)
- October 30, 2019
- November 20, 2019
- November 26, 2019
- December 23, 2019
- December 30, 2019
- January 13, 2020
- January 28, 2020
- February 27, 2020
- March No Meetings held
- April No Meeting held
- May 07, 2020 Working Session
- June 25, 2020
- June 30, 2020
- July 30, 2020
- July 31, 2020 (Joint SWCD Meeting)
- August 04, 2020
- August 31, 2020
- September 04, 2020
- September 29, 2020



Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the executive order issued, the SGSWCD did not hold Board meetings in the months of March, April, and May. Meetings held from June-Sept were conducted via virtual conference. The SGSWCD recognizes partner agencies that consistently represent during the monthly Board meetings to include the 35th Guam Legislature, University of Guam, Guam Department of Agriculture, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans; USDA NRCS, and USDA APHIS WS. The District notes full partner participation from CHamoru Land Trust Commission and Department of Land Management is critical in order to move conservation efforts amongst agricultural landowners and leasees are critical.



Goal 4

Aquire diverse array of funding sources that ensure organizational sustainability and continuation of missionefforts.

Strategy 1: Continue to fund the Guam Feral Swine Program

GUAM FERAL SWINE PROGRAM SUPPORT

In FY2019, the SGSWCD met with the Governor of Guam Lou Leon Guerrero and advocated the need for feral swine management and control on Guam through the Guam Feral Swine Program. The program is supported by funding provided by the Districts to the USDA APHIS WS. Govern or Lou Leon Guerrero and Administration provided \$50,000 to the Districts to continue the program for FY2020.





Strategy 2: Aquire Grant Funding to support conservation efforts.

USDA NRCS PARTNER IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

The SGSWCD was awarded its first federal grant to develop a 5 year Long Range Plan to address Guam's priority resource concerns, and a targeted conservation delivery proposal addressing one or more priority resource concerns and Feral Swine. Funding for strategic planner (\$27,000), two part time project assistants (\$24,960.72), supplies & computers (\$7,300), and advertisements & meeting venues (\$9,800). Start Date: September 2020. Total Project Budget: \$84,166.72

NACD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT ROUND IV

The SGSWCD in partnership with GACD applied for grant funding from NACD to develop a 5 year Strategic Plan for the Guam Soil and Water Conservation. Funding for strategic consultant (\$50,000) ,two part-time resource technicians (\$30,000), computer equipment (local match), support staff (local match) will be provided by the Guam SWCDs. Start Date: September 2020 - October 2020. Total Project Budget: \$100,000.

Strategy 3: Collaborate with partners on possible grant opportunities.

DOI US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES ISLAND WIDE HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

In 2019 the SGSWCD contributed an in-kind match of \$5,000 to support the Guam Dept. of Agriculture's efforts to Develop an IslandWide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). In 2020, the grant funding was awarded to the Guam Dept, of Agriculture. The HCP will be the first of its kind on Guam, and the first of its kind anywhere in the Mariana Islands. The goal of the project is to prepare an administrative draft HCP for Guam on nonfederal land that would cover 16 listed species and two additional species expected to become listed. Project Duration: October 11, 2020. Sept 30, 2023



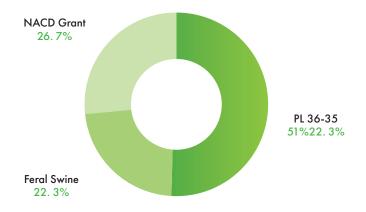


FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Fiscal Performance: **Income**

According to Guam Public Law 35-36 Chapter II Section 7, the amount of \$137,594.00 is to be disbursed through UOG and divided amongst the two (2) Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts for FY2020 for a total of \$68,797 to be disbursed per district.

The SGSWCD successfully received its full allotment. In addition, the SGSWCD received \$30,000 from DOA for the Guam Feral Swine Program and \$36,000 from the National Association of Conservation Districts for the Technical Assistance Grant.



INCOME	
PL 35-36	\$68,797
Feral Swine Funding	\$30,000
NACD TA Grant	\$36,000
TOTAL	\$134,797

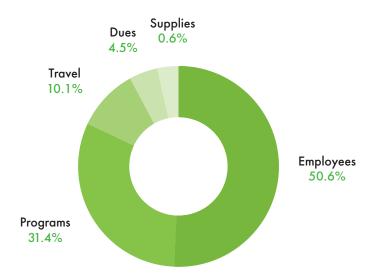


Fiscal Performance: **Expenses**

Most of the SGSWCD's budget was dedicated to district employees and conservation program support The decrease in budget for the Guam SWCDs have caused SGSWCD to limit contributions into planned programs and support and the hiring of additional staff.

The continued reduction in government appropriations have limited the Southern District's capacity and full potential in accomplishing its mission's goals and objectives.

EXPENSES	
Personnel (1.5 FTE)	\$64,500
Programs	\$40,000
Travel	\$12,854
Membership Dues	\$5,775
Stipends	\$2,850
Supplies	\$800
Equipment	\$622
Misc.	\$125
TOTAL	\$127,526







OFFICE ADDRESS

University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences

Room 126 Building B University Drive Mangilao Guam 96923

POSTAL ADDRESS

303 UOG/CNAS University Drive Mangilao Guam 96923

southernguamswcd@gmail.com

