## 20 19

## **Annual Report**

SOUTHERN GUAM SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT





#### A MESSAGE FROM THE SGSWCD BOARD

The Southern Guam Soil & Water Conservation District serves as advocates for the protection and wise use of Guam's natural and cultural resources. "Our island" will always serve as the greatest generator for social and economic wealth. Once we diminish our resources we negatively impact the future of our society.

As our island continues to grow in population and economic activity, we must all work together to protect our natural resources. We must tighten & unify our conservation efforts, encourage sustainable management of our resources, promote the production of fruits, vegetables, and other locally grown foods, and above all teach our children the importance of stewardship of our island.

To accomplish this vision, we work with many local and federal entities such as the University of Guam, United States Department of Agriculture, Guam Department of Agriculture, and other agencies. Our efforts include the Educators Symposium, Feral Swine Program, and the Restoration of the UGUM Watershed. We also work in partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts through the legislative process to ensure the needs of Guam's farmers are included in the Farm Bill.

With such partners we are able fulfill our mission of promoting, sustaining, and supporting the conservation of Guam's soil and water resources.









Michael E.D. Aguon, Chairman Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District

## SOUTHERN GUAM SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (SGSWCD)

P.L. 31-125:2 (Sept. 30, 2011)

#### About US

The SGSWCD is an elected Government of Guam Board that works with government agencies and private land owners.

#### What We Do

The Board creates and advises on policies for the protection of Guam's natural resources. We serve our cooperators as conduits to conservation technical and financial assistance for farmers and land owners.

#### **Vision**

To be Guam's leading conservation organization for the protection of Guam's natural resources through locally lead stewardship and best management practices

#### **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

#### Goals

- Steward & Develop Guam's Agricultural Industry and Conservation Reserves.
- Actively Engage & Build Relationships with the Various Island Communities to Promote the Conservation of Guam's Soil and Water Resources.
- Develop Team Capacity and Strengthen Organizational Cultures.

#### **Board of Directors 2019-2021**

- · Michael Aguon, Chairperson
- Angelita Mendiola, Vice-Chairperson
- Carol Tayama, Director
- Glenn Takai, Director
- Jonathan Manglona, Director

#### Staff

- Erica Pangelinan, District Administrator
- · Linda Reyes, Outreach Specialist
- Rita Barcinas, Administrative Aide

#### **Partners**

- University of Guam (UOG)
- UOG Sea Grant
- UOG Center for Island Sustainability (CIS)
- 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)

# THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT



#### District Boundary

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.

#### **Muncipalities**

- M02- Agat
- M03 Asan
- M06 Inarajan
- M08- Merizo
- M09- Piti
- M11- Talofofo
- M12- Umatac
- M14 Yona
- M18 Santa Rita

#### **District Membership**

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.

## GOAL 1: ACTIVELY ENGAGE & BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE VARIOUS ISLAND COMMUNITIES TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF GUAM'S SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES.

OBJECTIVE: Support and facilitate education outreach to promote the conservation of Guam's soil & water. The District hosted three (3) farmer outreach events to promote the local and federal conversation programs available. The SGWCD also co-sponsored and/or supported five (5) partner events aligned with the mission of the Guam SWCDs.







#### BACKYARD EGG PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

SGSWCD in collaboration with the University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences (UOG CNAS) hosted a Backyard Egg Production Workshop at the Agat Mayor's Office. The workshop was held on October 13, 2018. UOG CNAS Extension Agent III, Dr. Hauhouot Diamabra-Odi, facilitated the presentation on how farmers, ranchers, and residents can start up their very own egg backyard production for self-consumption and/or market production. A total of 37 participants attended the workshop with special guest representatives from the southern villages to include: Angelita Mendiola, SGSWCD Vice-Chairwoman; Carol Tayama, SGSWCD Director and former Mayor of Agat; Honorable Dale Alvarez, Mayor of Santa Rita; Honorable Johnny Quinata, Mayor of Umatac; and Honorable Christopher J. Fejeran, Vice-Mayor of Agat.

#### GUAM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TELE WORKSHOP

The SGSWCD provided support to DOAG Forestry Division for the Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE) workshop held on January 10th and 11th at the UOG SBPA Office. Facilitators from Yale conducted the workshop introducing tools and techniques to help subject matter experts outreach to specific types of landowners. The District provided workshop support and attended the training to adopt TELE techniques.

#### USDA NRCS EQIP WORKSHOP

The Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts (GSWCD) in collaboration with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) brought Guam's farmers together to learn more about conservation technical and financial assistance available through NRCS. The farmer outreach event was held on Wednesday, November 28, 2018, at the Hågatña Mayor's Office. Adam Reed, USDA NRCS Assistant Director of Field Operations (ADFO) for the Pacific Islands Area, facilitated the presentation on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and how farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners can sign-up for the program. A total of 34 farmers attended the event with special guest representatives in attendance to include: Honorable Melissa Savarez, Mayor of Dededo: and Honorable Rudy Paco, Mayor of Mongmong-Toto-Maite; Benny Chargualaf, SGSWCD Chairman; Angelita Mendiola, SGSWCD Vice-Chairwoman; Carol Tayama, SGSWCD Director; Michael Aguon, SGSWCD Director; Joseph Santos, NGSWCD Chairman (Acting); Hope Cristobal, NGSWCD Director; Jocelyn Bamba, NRCS District Conservationist; Thomas Camacho, USDA Farm Service Agency County Exec. Director; Jeffrey Flores, USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service- Wildlife Services Program Manager.

## UOG CISX CONFERENCE

SGSWCD provided a \$5,000 sponsorship to the Center for Island Sustainability (CIS) to support the 10th annual CIS conference. The conference was held on April 8-12, 2019 at the Hyatt Hotel in Tumon. The 2019 conference theme was, "Sustainable Then. Sustainable Again?" The conference reflected a decade of renewed focus reflecting the ancient island value of sustainability. The SGSWCD continues to support UOG CIS efforts in adapting and modeling sustainable technologies that meet the needs of island communities in the broader areas of the environment, economy, society, and education.













## CSP & GEDA WORKSHOP

SGSWCD hosted another farmer outreach event focused on the USDA NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Guam Economic Development Authority's (GEDA) Agricultural Grant Program. The event was held on May 02, 2019 at the Sinajana Mayor's Office from 4pm-6pm. Both programs provided farmers the opportunity to improve their agricultural operations and increase agricultural production. USDA NRCS PIA ADFO Adam Reed spoke about the CSP programs, benefits, and application processes. In addition, GEDA's Tria Paulino presented on the Agriculture development fund available for individuals who are interested in developing their agriculture operations. The workshop promoted the local and federal programs available to farmers in an effort to increase conservation on Guam. There were a total of 15 attendees with special guest representatives to include: DoAg Director Chelsea Muna-Brecht; Michael Aguon, SGSWCD Chairperson; Angelita Mendiola, SGSWCD Vice-Chair; Buck Jolley, USDA APHIS; Kathrina Reves, Guam Farmer's Cooperative Secretary.

## UOG 51ST CHARTER

SGSWCD hosted an outreach booth at the University of Guam's 51st Charter Day held on May 12th, 2019. Charter Day is known as the University's largest community event held on campus. The SGSWCD staff coordinated an interactive outreach booth to promote better stewardship. The booth featured the National Association of Conservation Districts' stewardship theme "Life in Soil Dig Deeper". The booth also featured activities focused on Guam's soil layers, vermiculture, and information on Guam's native guasale flower. The booth was located at the UOG's College of Natural and Applied Sciences campus grounds. Staff: Linda Reyes, Rita Barcinas, & Erica Pangelinan

#### GUAM DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM OUTREACH

Guam DoAG in collaboration with Guam Bureau of Statistics and plans and SGSWCD hosted an outreach event focused on DOAG's Forest Stewardship Program. The workshop was held on march 13, 2019 at the Inarajan community center. The event, which was facilitated by DoAg, covered the Forest Stewardship Program and how it can help landowners with erosion, soil health, invasive species issues, and etc. Event allowed participants to schedule a free lot health assessment; learn how to receive free trees for foresting, windbreak, greenbelt, agroforestry through the program; and receive technical assistance.



The SGSWCD supported the Merizo Pier Project's third annual cleanup. The project is an ongoing scuba & snorkel cleanup done annually. This time around the project featured a Mother Earth Conservation Fair. The fair was held on May 11, 2019 from 10AM -2PM at the Merizo Pier. SGSWCD donated trash bags, gloves, and various raffle prizes for participants.



Mar 13, 2019 4pm to 6pm Inarajan Community Center For more info contact:

Patrick.keeler@bsp.guam.gov



The workshop will cover the Forest Stewardship Program and how it may help landowners with erosion, soil health, invasive species issues etc.

Participants will have options:

- To schedule a free lot health assessment
- Receive free trees for foresting, windbreak, greenbelt, agroforestry, etc
- Receive technical assistance

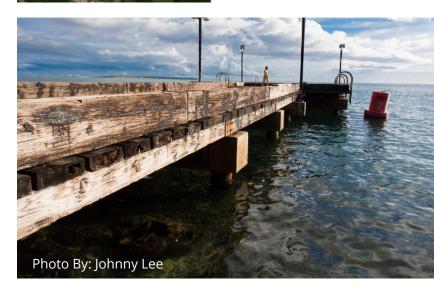
















## OBJECTIVE 2: STEWARD & DEVELOP GUAM'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND CONSERVATION RESERVES

OBJECTIVE: Assist local and federal partners in the conservation of Guam's soil and water. The SGSWCD continues to partner with local and federal agencies to implement programs that improve water quality, mitigate soil erosion, and promote the protection of Guam's natural resources.



#### USDA APHIS WILDLIFE SERVICES FERAL SWINE PROGRAM

SGSWCD requested assistance from USDA APHIS-WS in capturing feral swine in an effort to reduce damage and threats caused to agriculture, livestock, and human health. APHIS-WS joined efforts to capture feral swine on privately owned properties using a variety of proven methods.

The cooperative goal of the agreement is to reduce the amount of damage caused by feral swine for landowners requesting assistance. APHIS-WS utilizes corral traps to respond to landowner complaints of feral swine. Though the original "plan of action" allows the use of corral traps, snares, or firearms, corral trapping is the most effective option in most cases.

An annual agreement is the best for sustained feral swine control for SGSWCD. It is recommended that future agreements (i.e. FY 2020) span an entire FY. The SGSWCD secured \$40,000 to continue trapping efforts in both the northern and southern district for FY2020.

720

Feral Swine removed in the Southern District from 2017-2019.

5,472

Field specialist hours covered from 2017-2019 agreement (including admin, outreach and leave).

\$45,000

SGSWCD funds Contributed USDA APHIS WS Feral Swine Working Agreement (FY17-FY19).





## NACD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

SGSWCD completed its first round of the National Association of Conservation Districts Technical Assistance (NACD TA) Grant and continues the program.

The NACD TA Grant Round 1 proves to be a beneficial grant program for the entire island of Guam. As proposed in the metric grant narrative, SGSWCD agreed to hire one (1) full time program support specialist to assist in 20 plans benefiting approximately 60 acres.

The SGSWCD was successful in meeting its grant requirements and objectives. To continue efforts, SGSWCD was awarded another round of grant funding of \$36,000 to continue assisting the USDA NRCS Guam Service Center for FY2020.











## UGUM WATERSHED RESTORATION



#### **GROW INITIATIVE**

In 2017, the Southern District committed \$27,500.00 to the UOG Sea Grant's Guam Restoration of Watersheds (GROW) Initiative. The ongoing research aims to improve local environmental conditions while simultaneously building island resilience against global environmental changes. Research outcomes of the GROW Initiative have cross-cutting value to all sectors of island life, including the tourism and business industries, which rely heavily on the marketing of healthy coastal ecosystems. The University of Guam is providing services to the Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District to include:

- Obtaining an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) system capable of deploying seeds and seedballs. The UAV will carry and deploy seeds and seedballs to remote locations in Guam watersheds. The system will allow for quick, wide dispersal of seedballs into eroding hillsides.
- Prioritizing use of the UAV system for Southern Guam watersheds.
- Listing the SGSWCD as a partner of GROW Initiative in all signage and promotions
- Maintaining and overseeing use of the UAV.

## CHALAN LAYON TREE PROGRAM

In 2015, GEPA, DoAG, USDA NRCS, SGSWCD, and the Inarajan Mayor's Office coordinated a native tree planting event in Chalan Layon in Inarajan. The site was identified as a critical tree planting area that would help reduce sediment run-off from the UGUM Watershed. Maintenance of the trees has suffered due to the lack of peoplepower and a cohesive management/ maintenance plan. The SGSWCD's Watershed committee met with the Mayor of Inarajan to revisit the program. The committee continues to explore options to improve tree maintenance efforts. Plans to incorporate the use of sediment socks in privately-owned river banks to help with restoration efforts are currently being explored.

















## GOAL 3: DEVELOP TEAM CAPACITY AND STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURES

**OBJECTIVE: Strengthen Organizational Systems and Develop Team Capacity.** The SGSWCD continues to work towards improving its District operations through the strengthening of internal and external organizational structures, and building overall team capacity to best accomplish its mission and vision.

# 73RD ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS (NACD) MEETING

SGSWCD represented Guam during NACD's 73rd Annual Meeting on Feb. 2 - 6, 2019 in San Antonio, Texas. The meeting was hosted in partnership with the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD). The theme was: Mission Focused, Fulfilling our Legacy. Throughout the meeting, representatives were able to network with others in the pacific region, learn how the association is organized, and how policies are created. The SGSWCD also reported on Guam's conservation efforts during the Pacific Region Meeting to include the ongoing partnership with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, the NACD Technical Assistance Grant, UGUM Watershed restoration efforts, and more.





The annual meeting provides an opportunity for the District representatives to learn more about the tools and resources available to the Districts through NACD programs. SGSWCD has made it a priority to refocus its efforts through knowledge and best management practices gained at the annual meeting.

Other meetings and sessions attended include:

- First Timers Session
- Opening General Session
- Breakout Sessions: Social Marketing Strategies to Inspire Conservation Stewardship.
- Breakout Session: The Basics of Digital Communications.
- General Session-Urban Agriculture Conservation Panel, Soil Health Panel
- Breakout Session: Increasing Public Engagement.
- Breakout Session: Building Capacity Through Partnership.
- Symposium: Ecosystems Services Markets Symposium.

## 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 hosted two meeting a month. Meetings provide an opportunity for District partners to collaborate and coordinate on projects and activities. Meetings also provide an environment in where Board members offer recommendations to partner programs concerning the conservation of Guam's soil and water.



## SGSWCD MEETING DATES

- Tuesday, October 23, 2018
- Tuesday, October 30, 2018
- Tuesday, November 20, 2018
- Tuesday, November 27, 2018
- Thursday, December 13, 2018
- Tuesday, December 18, 2018
- Thursday, January 17, 2019
- Tuesday, January 22, 2019
- Tuesday, February 26, 2019
- Thursday, March 14, 2019
- April 25, 2019 (No Quorum)
- Tuesday, April 30, 2019
- Friday, May 24, 2019
- Tuesday, May 28, 2019
- June 18, 2019 (No Quorum)
- Friday, June 28, 2019
- Thursday, July 18, 2019
- Tuesday, July 23, 2019
- Tuesday, August 13, 2019
- Friday, August 16, 2019
- Monday, August 19, 2019
- NEW BOARD ELECTED AUGUST20, 2019
- Monday, September 23, 2019

## UOG CNAS ANNUAL MEETING

The newly elected SGSWCD Directors attended the University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences' 2019 Annual Cooperative Extension Meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at the Dusit Thani Resort. The event recognized individuals from the community for their leadership, support, and dedicated service to the island community and for promoting the University's Cooperative Extension & Outreach in Guam. The event showcased education and program impacts from the University's research and extension efforts to address the needs of Guam and its communities.





## MEET AND GREET WITH THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

The Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District (SGSWCD) hosted a meet and greet with the Governor of Guam Lou Leon Guerrero. The SGSWCD introduced current conservation efforts along with programs with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wild Life Services, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and University of Guam (UOG) Sea Grant. Partners delivered a briefing on SGSWCD sponsored programs to include the USDA APHIS WS Feral Swine Program; National Association of Conservation District (NACD) Technical Assistance Grant: and the UOG Sea Grant Guam Restoration of Watersheds (GROW) Initiative. SGSWCD Directors emphasized the need to continue to the great work of the District to increase conservation for the protection of Guam's precious resources. Meeting was held on July 15, 2019 at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex.

Attendees: Governor or Guam Lou Leon Guerrero; SGSWCD Chair Michael Aguon; SGSWCD Vice Chairperson Angelita Mendiola; SGSWCD Director Carol Tayama; SGSWCD Administrator Erica Pangelinan; SGSWCD Outreach Specialist Linda Reyes; USDA NRCS DC Jocelyn Bamba; USDA APHIS WS Supervisory Biologist Dr.Aaron Collins; UOG Sea Grant Director Dr. Austin Shelton III.

## 2019 NACD PACIFIC REGION MEETING

The SGSWCD District Chairperson and District Administrator attended the the National Association of Conservation District's Pacific Region meeting held on August 2-6, 2019 in Santa Fe New Mexico. The meeting provided an opportunity for Guam to advocate the island's resource concerns and needs. District representatives also provided input into the NACD TA Grant benefits and the need to continue the program for Guam.

#### Meetings attended

- Invasive Species RPG
- · Coastal RPG.
- Pacific Region Stakeholder and Listening Session

The SGSWCD requested from NACD assistance to help the Guam SWCDs develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the island. NACD Pacific Region representative Ariel Rivers informed NACD is working to provide such assistance to SWCDs who are need of service. SGSWCD Board has agreed to recommend to incoming 2019-2021 SWCDs Board to prioritize updating its long range strategic plan.













#### 2019 GUAM SWCD ELECTION

The SGSWCD in collaboration with UOG CNAS coordinated the 2019 Guam SWCD Election held on August 20, 2019 at the University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences.

Two notices of election were featured in the Guam Daily Post on August 13 and 16, 2019. The University of Guam College of Natural and Applied Sciences

The newly elected Board of Directors for the Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District (SGSWCD) and Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District (NGSWCD) were officially sworn in by the Honorable Governor of Guam Lou Leon Guerrero on September 23, 2019, at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Governor's Complex. The Guam SWCDs work in partnership with the University of Guam and in cooperation with all government of Guam entities overseeing local and federal programs established to promote the conservation and wise use of Guam's soil and water resources.

#### FY2019-2021 Guam SWCD Directors Southern District

- SGSWCD Chair Michael Aguon,
- SGSWCD Vice-Chair Angelita Mendiola,
- SGSWCD Director Glenn Takai,
- SGSWCD Director Carol Tayama,
- SGSWCD Director Jonathan Manglona,

#### Northern District

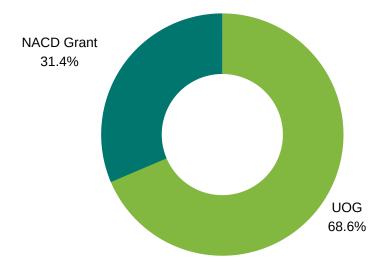
- NGSWCD Chair Hope Cristobal
- NGSWCD Vice-Chair Marlene Slomka
- NGSWCD Director Joseph Santos
- NGSWCD Director Kathrina Reyes
- NGSWCD Director Teddy Lee Concepcion



## FY2019 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Fiscal Performance: Income**

According to Guam Public Law 34-116 Chapter II Part II Section 7, the amount of \$136,442.00 is to be disbursed through UOG and divided amongst the two (2) Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts for FY2019 for a total of \$68,221 to be disbursed per district. The SGSWCD successfully received its full allotment. In addition, the SGSWCD also received \$31,244.08 from the National Association of Conservation District for the Technical Assistance Grant.

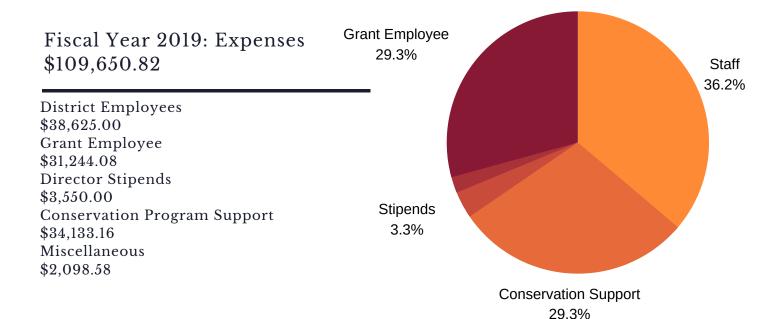


Fiscal Year 2019 Income \$99,465.08

UOG Disbursements \$68,221 NACD TA Grant Funding \$31,244.08

#### **Fiscal Performance: Expenses**

Most of the SGSWCD's budget was dedicated to district employees and conservation program support (including the FY2019 USDA Feral Swine Program, UOG CIS 10th Annual Conference, and NACD Annual and Pacific Region Meeting, and outreach events). The decrease in budget for the Guam SWCDs have caused SGSWCD to tap into reserve funding and limit contributions into planned programs and support.



### LOOKING AHEAD



#### **FY2020 OUTLOOK**

The Southern Guam SWCD 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 outreach and education. Although the Northern Guam SWCD was inactive in 2019, the SGSWCD continued efforts to accomplish the mission of the Guam SWCDs. The newly elected SGSWCD Board looks forward to reexamining its long-range strategic plan; identifying and acquiring innovative funding opportunities; increasing conservation plans on Guam; and raising the value and support for the Guam SWCDs both locally, regionally, and nationally.

Conservation Matters 24/7

#### CONTACT US!

