



GUAM LOCAL WORKING GROUP MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Date: 05-04-2016. Start Time: 10:05AM. End Time: 11:50AM.

INTRODUCTIONS

- Introduction of Local Work Group (LWG) Members:
 - Angie Mendiola, Chair SGSWCD
 - Hope Cristobal, NGSWCD
 - Ron Laguana, NGSWCD
 - Bill McDonald, SGSWCD
 - Bob Schlub, UOG-CES
 - Phoebe Wall, UOG-Extension
 - Teddy Lee Concepcion, TC Ranch LLC
 - Caoilte Kurtzman, Office Sen. Mary Torres
 - Joe Mafnas, DOA- Forestry
 - Paula Segal
 - Roland Quitugua, Chair NGSWCD
 - Ursula Herrera, SGSWCD
 - Jonathan Manglona, SGSWCD
 - Erica Pangelinan, NGSWCD
 - Margaret Aguilar, GEPA
 - Adrienne Loerzel, NOAA
 - Roque Rosario, BSP/GCMP
 - David Tydingco, Valley of the Latte
 - M. Golabi, UOG-CNAS
 - Geraldine Datuin, DOA- ADS

NRCS representatives: J. Bamba and Colleen Simpson

- Sign In Sheet (available upon request)

LWG Policy:

- Reviewed USDA-NRCS LWG policy
 - Members of LWG
 - Purpose of LWG

General overview of Farm Bill Program:

- Guam Ranking Questions
 - New questions recommended by LWG:
 - Members asked to provide written feedback by June 1, 2016.
- PIA priority Land uses:
 - No changes or discussion

Review Meeting Outcomes:

- Stressed importance of providing recommendations in writing by the deadline of 06/01/2016.

Participant Handouts :

LWG Policy; EQIP Ranking Summary for all fund pools (Forest; Wildlife; Socially Disadvantaged; Beginning Farmer, Animal Feeding operations/ Farmstead; Crop; Pasture; Energy; Organics. EQIP Eligible Practices; EQIP Eligible Resource Concerns.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

- **Identify Local Priority Resource Concerns**
 1. Reviewed prior year Cropland resource concerns –
 - LWG recommended to retain all existing resource concerns
 - Recommended adding protection of crops from damage by feral and domestic animals
 2. Reviewed prior year Pasture land resource concerns
 - LWG recommended to retain all existing resource concerns
 - Recommended adding protection of livestock and forage plantings from feral and domestic animals.
 3. Reviewed prior year Forestland resource concerns



- LWG recommended to retain all existing resource concerns
- No new recommendations made during meeting.
- 4. Reviewed prior year Farmstead resource concerns (includes confined animal feeding operations).
 - LWG recommended to retain all existing resource concerns

Resource Concerns general discussion:

- PIA priority resource concerns:
 - Cropland and Pastureland – protection from feral and domestic animals (pigs, dogs, deer)
- Mr. Concepcion - beginning farmer
 - feral animals - cited EQIP Eligible Resource Concern handout, #16, Livestock Production Limitation
 - Feral pigs and dogs are out of control on island. A perimeter fence and/or exclusion fence is needed to keep the feral animals off cropland, pastureland and forestland. Feral dogs kill goats. Feral pigs eat the horse and/or cattle supplemental feed and cause other damage. Fences are designed to keep the livestock in but not to keep the feral animals out. It is recommended that feral animals be included as an eligible resource concern and perimeter and/or exclusion fences become eligible practices to resolve the resource concern.
- Dr. Schlub – UOG
 - mentioned the decline of ironwood trees in windbreaks as a resource concern and the need to replace dying trees in windbreaks
 - Bamba explained that this is already an eligible resource concern that uses Windbreak Renovation and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment as eligible practices to address the concern.
- Dr. Schlub – UOG
 - tomato virus outbreak concern
 - Recommended that trying new seeds and varieties be eligible practices to work around pest and diseases and that the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) be extended to help farmers purchase seeds of different varieties as it plays into the definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by increasing resistance to pest or disease thereby reducing loss and reducing pesticide use which reduces the flow of herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals into the water and the environment. Must fund host resistance to be IPM. Genetic diversity is imperative to resistance. This is the resource concern, to reduce the flow of pesticides into the water and the environment through IPM, genetic diversity and plant resistance.
- Mr. McDonald – Southern Guam SWCD, member
 - concern was brought up after close of EQIP eligible resource concerns and eligible practices discussion
 - rhinoceros beetle resource concern
 - Coconuts are responsible for holding the majority of the streambanks and shorelines in place. EQIP should be extended to address this attack on the local coconut and palms as an eligible resource concern through the Integrated Pest Management and/or other practices.

Ranking Questions

1. Review prior year local ranking questions
 - Ranking summaries provided for all Funding Pools.
 - Proposed revisions and /or new questions must be submitted in writing by 06/01/16.
2. Select prior year ranking questions and/or generate new questions –



- Proposed revisions and /or new questions must be submitted in writing by 06/01/16.
- 3. Assign points to ranking questions –
 - Proposed revisions must be submitted in writing by 06/01/16.

Ranking questions general discussion:

Group was satisfied with existing local ranking questions but recommended to add the new local ranking questions to the Socially Disadvantaged, Forest, Wildlife, Beginning Farmer, High Tunnel System, and Farmstead/AFO ranking tools.

1. Is operation within a coastal area?
2. Is operation within a coastal area upstream from and ESA listed marine species?
3. Will practices address the excessive dust and/or noise from military activities?
4. Will practices implement the IPM principle of growing pest and disease resistant plants?

Recommend EQIP Eligible Practices

1. Review prior year practices
 - LWG members reviewed FY16 eligible practice list.
 - LWG members will submit written comments by 06/01/16.
2. Recommend adjusts if any
 - No recommendations made during meeting.

Recommend EQIP Payment Rates and Cost Share Rates

1. Review FY16 payment schedule
 - LWG members did not discuss payment schedule.
 - Recommend adjusts if any (*supporting data requested for all cost changes*)
 - LWG members may submit written comments / recommendations by 06/01/16.

OTHER DISCUSSION: NONE

Submitted by:

Jocelyn Bamba
District Conservationist
Guam Service Center