

# Local Work Group Conducted for USDA Program Compliance

Summary Report – Saipan, CNMI

06/14/2016

Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Location:** Department of Public Lands Conference Room

**Attendees:** Ignacio V. Cabrera, S&NI SWCD Chair; John Furey, Private Sector Consultant; Frank Ada, CNMI Forestry; Tim Kock, Northern Marianas College-CREES; Katie Graziano, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality; Kathy Yuknavage, BECQ; Diana Gabaldon, S&NI SWCD

## Findings:

**Water Quality; Soil Quality; Water Quantity; Air Quality; Noxious/Invasive Species Control; Infrastructure Upgrades; Land Availability and Accessibility; Equipment Availability and Services; Wildlife Habitat; and Energy Conservation.**

- **Water Quality**
  - Major concern with this is the Animal Wastes being flushed directly onto the ground and into water courses
  - Other major concern is the known application of illegal pesticides being applied on farm lands
- **Soils Quality**
  - All parties are concerned of soil quality and water quality such as leaching, aquifer contamination, contaminants of unknown chemicals used
- **Air Quality**
  - Objectionable odors coming from Ag. Operations such as Piggery Operations with no waste management system in place; small confined goat pastures – during rainy season manure odors are really potent
- **Noxious and invasive species spreading**
  - Invasive species.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades**
  - Perimeter fence (program eligibility for repairs for functionality) to keep livestock out of streams and water courses
- **Land Availability and Accessibility**
  - Longer term leases was mentioned that instead of 5 years it may be 10 years, concerns for time frame for land compensation and relocation due to limited available lands designated for Agricultural use

Requests were made for the possibility re-visiting the Farmstead ranking points and possibly increasing Farmstead Ranking points due to livestock operations on the island have been contributing pollutants not necessarily near streams but via water courses.

### Revise Farmstead Local issues Ranking Questions:

1. Have soil samples already been submitted to the Land Grant University?
2. Is this Animal Feeding Operation located in a watershed of a 303(d) designated water body impaired for nutrients or pathogens, or located in a locally designated (i.e. EPA) impaired watershed?
3. Is this Animal Feeding Operation located within 150 feet of a surface water resource (i.e. stream, ocean, water course, etc.)?
4. Will this Animal Feeding Operation change from wash-down to dry-litter?
5. Will practices reduce soil erosion and/or sediment delivery?

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\*\*\* See attached notes collected average points adjustment as agreed upon by all parties during discussion session. Reference questions refer to the Ranking Report Operations Type and it's questionnaires. National, State and Local issues questionnaires.

06/14/16 S+M GROUP / KATHY / KATIE / CHAIRMAN / FRANCADA / JOHN FUREY / DEAN

### Local Ranking Question for Each Land-use Saipan

Local Field Offices should develop a maximum of 5 questions to be used as a local ranking for each land use. Points should be assigned to the questions with the total for each land-use to equal 250 points. Questions should be written in a "Yes or No" manner with a "Yes" answer resulting in points being earned.

Cropland	Pasture/Range Land	Forest Land	Farmstead
<p>Question 1 Points = <u>55</u> <del>50</del></p> <p>Will improved moisture mgt be achieved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices to address &gt; 40% of treated acres within the contract?</p>	<p>Question 1 Points = <u>65</u> <del>70</del></p> <p>Will pest plants be reduced or eradicated by implementing at least 2 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on &gt; 40% of treated acres within the contract treatment area?</p>	<p>Question 1 Points = <u>90</u> <del>100</del></p> <p>Will at least 3 different, Category 1, PIER-listed pest plants be reduced or eradicated by implementing at least 2 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on &gt; 40% of acres within the contract treatment area?</p>	<p>Farmstead funds and ranking questions will be administered by the SO.</p>
<p>Question 2 Points = <u>50</u> <del>55</del></p> <p>Will energy savings be achieved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices to address &gt; 40% of treated acres within the contract?</p>	<p>Question 2 Points = <u>55</u> <del>60</del></p> <p>Will forage health &amp; vigor be improved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on &gt; 40% of treated acres within the contract?</p>	<p>Question 2 Points = <u>45</u> <del>50</del></p> <p>Will undesirable plant productivity &amp; health be improved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on &gt; 60% of acres within the contract treatment area?</p>	
<p>Question 3 Points = <u>70</u> <del>50</del></p> <p>Will water quality be improved by reducing sediment leaving the farm by implementing at least 2 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on &gt; 20% of treated acres within the contract?   + SEDIMENT, SANITY, ANIMALS</p>	<p>Question 3 Points = <u>50</u> <del>55</del></p> <p>Will a reliable, properly sized, energy efficient/conserving livestock water supply be provided to at least 40% of the grazing acres within the contract by installing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices?   WATER SANITY</p>	<p>Question 3 Points = <u>35</u> <del>40</del></p> <p>Is wildlife and/or plant habitat of T&amp;E, proposed, or candidate species located on T&amp;E 1:24K scale map for this site? Additionally, does 2 or more planned NRCS forestry practices benefit the T,E,P,C wildlife habitat?</p>	<p>WTK QUALITY # 4</p>
<p>Question 4 Points = <u>40</u> <del>45</del></p> <p>Will plant health &amp; vigor be improved, and/or growing season extended, by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on &gt; 1700 sq ft within the contract treatment area?</p>	<p>Question 4 - WTK SANITY Points = <u>40</u> <del>45</del></p> <p>Will energy savings be achieved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices to address &gt; 40% of treated acres within the contract?   QUESTION # 5</p>	<p>Question 4 <del>50</del> Points = <u>30</u></p> <p>Does the treatment area lack adjacent vegetative buffer so that sediment will be transported to sensitive water bodies? If yes, will at least 2 PIA NRCS conservation practices be applied on &gt; 20% of acres within the contract?</p>	
<p>Question 5 Points = <u>35</u> <del>40</del></p> <p>Will soil health be improved by adding and/or protecting organic matter by implementing a PIA NRCS approved conservation practice to address &gt; 20% of treated acres within the contract?</p>	<p>Question 5 Points = <u>15</u> <del>20</del></p> <p>Will wildlife habitat of T&amp;E, proposed, or candidate species be improved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on &gt; 5% of treated acres within the contract?   CONSERVE</p>	<p>Question 5 <del>60</del> Points = <u>25</u> <del>30</del></p> <p>Will at least 3 native species of over &amp;/or understory be planted on the site or a combination of at least 2 native species and 1+ T,E,P,C plant species?</p>	
<p>Total <u>250</u></p>	<p>Total <u>250</u></p>	<p>Total <u>250</u></p>	

+ WATER QUALITY

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Cropland	Pasture/Range Land	Forest Land	Farmstead
Question <del>2</del> <sup>1</sup> Points = <u>55</u> <del>60</del> Will improved moisture mgt be achieved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices to address > 40% of treated acres within the contract?	Question 1 Points = <u>65</u> <del>70</del> Will pest plants be reduced or eradicated by implementing at least 2 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on > 40% of treated acres within the contract treatment area?	Question 1 Points = <u>90</u> <del>100</del> Will at least 3 different, Category 1, PIER-listed pest plants be reduced or eradicated by implementing at least 2 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on > 40% of acres within the contract treatment area?	Farmstead funds and ranking questions will be administered by the SO.
Question <del>3</del> <sup>2</sup> Points = <u>50</u> <del>55</del> Will energy savings be achieved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices to address > 40% of treated acres within the contract?	Question 2 Points = <u>55</u> <del>60</del> Will forage health & vigor be improved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on > 40% of treated acres within the contract?	Question 2 Points = <u>45</u> <del>50</del> Will undesirable plant productivity & health be improved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on > 60% of acres within the contract treatment area?	
Question <del>1</del> <sup>3</sup> Points = <u>70</u> <del>80</del> Will water quality be improved by reducing sediment leaving the farm by implementing at least 2 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on > 20% of treated acres within the contract?	Question 3 Points = <u>50</u> <del>55</del> Will a reliable, properly sized, energy efficient/conserving livestock water supply be provided to at least 40% of the grazing acres within the contract by installing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices? <i>WQ (40)</i>	Question 3 Points = <u>35</u> <del>40</del> Is wildlife and/or plant habitat of T&E, proposed, or candidate species located on T&E 1:24K scale map for this site? Additionally, does 2 or more planned NRCS forestry practices benefit the T,E,P,C wildlife habitat? <i>Question 4 = WQ (30)</i>	Question (4) WATER QUALITY Q2c NAT'L ON SOC. DIS. SUMMARY
Question 4 <sup>4</sup> <del>5</del> Points = <u>40</u> <del>45</del> Will plant health & vigor be improved, and/or growing season extended, by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on <del>&gt; 1700</del> <sup>&gt; 7000</sup> sq ft within the contract treatment area? <i>TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY</i>	Question <del>5</del> <sup>4</sup> Points = <u>25</u> <del>45</del> Will energy savings be achieved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices to address > 40% of treated acres within the contract?	Question <del>5</del> <sup>4</sup> Points = <u>25</u> <del>30</del> Does the treatment area lack adjacent vegetative buffer so that sediment will be transported to sensitive water bodies? If yes, will at least 2 PIA NRCS conservation practices be applied on > 20% of acres within the contract?	
Question 5 Points = <u>35</u> <del>40</del> Will soil health be improved by adding and/or protecting organic matter by implementing a PIA NRCS approved conservation practice to address > 20% of treated acres within the contract?	Question <del>6</del> <sup>5</sup> Points = <u>15</u> <del>20</del> Will wildlife habitat of T&E, proposed, or candidate species be improved by implementing at least 3 PIA NRCS approved conservation practices on > 5% of treated acres within the contract?	Question <del>6</del> <sup>5</sup> Points = <u>25</u> <del>30</del> Will at least 3 native species of over &/or understory be planted on the site or a combination of at least 2 native species and 1+ T,E,P,C plant species?	
Total	Total	Total	
<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	

nutrients, salinity, pesticides, and animal waste