

NRCS Caribbean Area Local Working Groups

Setting Natural Resource Priorities



Local Working Groups (LWG) provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to, priority natural resource concerns in the community and criteria to be used in ranking program applications techniques and for outreach.

Participants

The LWG is a diverse group of people with agricultural and natural resource interests. The local NRCS District Conservationist (DC) is the chair of each group. Members are diverse, with a focus on local agriculture and various natural resource issues. Agricultural land producers and non-industrial private foresters representing a variety of crops and livestock raised within the local area, private woodland owners, representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations and representatives of other agriculture and natural resource agencies are welcome and should participate.

To ensure that LWG recommendations encompass the broad scope of people served by USDA, members will include historically underserved groups such as minorities, persons with disabilities, beginning and limited resource farmers, and socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

Meetings

Meetings will be conducted as open discussions among members. Discussion will focus on identifying local natural resource concerns that can be treated using USDA NRCS programs and activities through the Farm Bill. All recommendations will be considered. LWG recommendations are to be submitted to the DC, as appropriate, within 14 calendar days after a meeting.

Summaries for all Local Working Group meetings will be available within 30 calendar days of the meeting and will be filed at the appropriate local NRCS office.



Individuals attending LWG meetings will be given the opportunity to address the group if wanted. Opportunity to address non-agenda items will be provided if time allows at the end of the meeting. Presenters are encouraged to provide written records of their comments to the Chairperson at the time of the presentation but are not required to do so.

Logistics

The LWG meets at least once each year. Other meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chairperson. Meetings will be called by the Chairperson whenever it is determined that there is business that should be brought before the group.

LWG meetings are open to the public. See the table on page 2 for information on your closest LWG. You can also visit the LWG webpage at

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/pr/ne/wsroom/events/ for the meeting schedule.

LWG Benefits

- Ensures conservation needs are developed using community stakeholder input.
- Conservation needs are assessed and are used to help identify program funding needs and conservation practices at the local level.
- Priority resource concerns and high priority areas needing assistance are identified.
- Recommendations are gathered for USDA conservation program application and funding criteria, eligible practices and payment rates.
- Multi-county cooperation and partnership building where program funding and priority area proposals cross county boundaries.
- Recommendations for state and national program policy to the State Technical committee are gathered.

Caribbean Area

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



2019 Caribbean Area NRCS Local Working Group (LWG) Meeting Schedule

Date/Time	Counties	Location	District Conservationist
Arecibo			
September 18, 9:00 a.m.	Arecibo, Barceloneta, Camuy, Ciales, Florida, Manati, Hatillo, Morovis, Vega Alta & Vega Baja	PRDA Arecibo Regional Office	Javier Medina Javier.Medina@usda.gov 787-817-2473 x114
Caguas			
August 2, 10:00 a.m.	Aguas Buenas, Caguas, Canóvanas, Carolina, Cataño, Cayey, Ceiba, Cidra, Culebra, Fajardo, Guaynabo, Gurabo, Humacao, Juncos, Las Piedras, Luquillo, Naguabo, Rio Grande, San Juan, San Lorenzo, Trujillo Alto, Loiza, Vieques & Yabucoa	Caguas Field Office/ PRDA Regional Office Gatsby Plaza, Suite 308 30 Padiál St. Caguas, PR	José Santiago Jose.Santiago@usda.gov 787-743-2743 x111
Corozal			
August 22, 9:30 a.m.	Aibonito, Barranquitas, Bayamón, Naranjito, Comerío, Corozal, Dorado, Orocovis, Toa Alta & Toa Baja	Corozal Field Office 180 State Road 159, Ramal 821 Interior 29 San Ramón St., Suite 2 Corozal, PR	Freddie Rivera Freddie.Rivera@usda.gov 787-859-2880 x101
Juana Díaz			
September 17, 1:00 p.m.	Adjuntas, Arroyo, Coamo, Guayama, Guayanilla, Juana Díaz, Maunabo, Patillas, Peñuelas, Ponce, Salinas, Santa Isabel & Villalba	Juana Díaz Field Office Juana Díaz Plaza B19 Intersection of State Road 149 & 584	Nicis Vega Nicis.Vega@usda.gov 787-837-4450 x106
Mayagüez			
August 23, 9:30 a.m.	Añasco, Cabo Rojo, Guánica, Hormigueros, Lajas, Las Marías, Maricao, Mayagüez, Sabana Grande, San Germán & Yauco	Mayagüez Field Office 2200 Pedro Albizu Campos Ave., Apt. 22 Mayagüez, PR	Zulma García Zulma.Garcia@usda.gov 787-831-3416 x100
San Sebastián			
TBA	Aguada, Aguadilla, Isabela, Lares, Moca, Quebradillas, Rincón & San Sebastián	Plaza del Mercado León Nieves San Jose St. Aguada, PR	Elizabeth Fred Elizabeth.Fred@usda.gov 787-896-3565 x104
St. Croix			
TBA	St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas, Water Island	UVI Videoconference	Rudy G. O'Reilly, Jr. Rudy.O_Reilly@usda.gov 340-692-9662 x106
Utua			
August 30, 9:00 a.m.	Jayuya, Utua	NRCS Utua Field Office 47 Fernando Ribas Ave. Utua, PR	Norberto Valentín Norberto.Valentin@usda.gov 787-894-1480 x110

