

Kubo, Susan - NRCS, Honolulu, HI

From: Kubo, Susan - NRCS, Honolulu, HI
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 2:50 PM

Subject: FW: Pacific Islands Area State Technical Committee (STAC) Meeting - May Meeting Notes and August Meeting Notice
Attachments: Pacific Islands Area STAC meeting recap 5-15-19.docx; STAC member info doc 7-24-2019.pdf; STAC vision attachment 7-25-2019.pdf

Greetings STAC Partners:

For those that may not have heard, Tony Ingersoll retired in July, after 34 years of working with NRCS. He left, with a huge grin on his face, very excited to work with his wife Cynthia on their farm in Makaha and to have more time for spoiling their grandkids.

Tony left big shoes to fill, so I appreciate your patience as I follow up on his work with you all. Attached you will find the May meeting notes. Apologies for the delay in getting these to you.

The next meeting of the STAC is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2019. For those able to physically attend, the meeting will be held in Room 4-118 of the PJKK Federal Building, 300 Ala Moana Blvd, Honolulu. For those unable to physically attend, it will be possible to call-in (number: 1-888-844-9904 (or 816-423-4261); Access Code: 2244222#). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication (e.g., American Sign Language) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY).

Meetings in the past have been scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m., but I am hoping we will be able to complete our business on the 14th by 2:00 p.m. (1:00 to 2:00 p.m.).

I have attached documents that we would like you to review and complete prior to the meeting. The documents describe our vision of how the STAC will function to provide feedback to Director Travis Thomason, and gathers information on your meeting preferences and areas of interest. Feel free to return your information prior to the meeting or bring it with you to the meeting.

Agenda topics for the 14th will be:

1. Welcome
2. STAC Vision
3. Organization of Subcommittees
4. Closing Comments
5. Next meeting date

Thank you for your commitment to conservation.

Aloha, Susan

Pacific Islands Area (PIA) State Technical Committee (STAC) Vision

State Technical Committees have been and continue to be a vital part of Farm Bill implementation. NRCS depends on their local knowledge and expertise to implement Farm Bill programs to ensure the process remains locally-led. The role of the STAC is to serve primarily as a source of information, analysis and recommendation to the PIA Director.

The Food Security Act of 1985 required the formation of STACs to advise NRCS on a variety of issues. The Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) amends the 1985 Farm Bill to identify additional mandatory members and designate multiple areas where the STAC must be involved in or consulted during 2018 Farm Bill implementation.

To insure STAC input is timely, STAC meetings will be held quarterly. Information will be sent to STAC members for review and comment prior to the meeting. Subcommittees, that meet between quarterly STAC meetings, will be used to address specific issues. Subcommittee meetings will be coordinated by a subcommittee chairperson. A technical facilitator will be assigned to each subcommittee. STAC meetings will consist of presentation of issues, review of subcommittee and other feedback, and summary of next steps whether it be to make a recommendation or to send the issue back to subcommittee. It is anticipated that STAC meetings will be business meetings.

Each STAC shall be composed of agricultural producers and other professionals that represent a variety of disciplines in the soil, water, wetland and wildlife sciences and include representatives from the following:

- (1) The Natural Resources Conservation Service
- (2) The Farm Services Agency
- (3) The Forest Service.
- (4) The National Institute of Food and Agriculture.
- (5) The State fish and wildlife agency.
- (6) The State forester or equivalent State official.
- (7) The State water resources agency.
- (8) The State department of agriculture.
- (9) The State association of soil and water conservation districts.
- (10) Agricultural producers representing the variety of crops and livestock or poultry raised within the State.
- (11) Owners of nonindustrial private forest land.
- (12) Nonprofit organizations within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with demonstrable conservation expertise and experience working with agriculture producers in the State.
- (13) Agribusiness.
- (14) The State Cooperative Extension Service and land grant university in the State.

While STAC meetings are open to anyone, membership is at the invitation of, and serve at the request of, the Director. We value your partnership, input, and time, and welcome recommendations on how we can improve this process.

If you have questions or comments about the State Technical Committee, please contact Susan Kubo by calling (808) 600-2921, or emailing susan.kubo@usda.gov.