



GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • AHENSIAN PRUTEKSIÓN LINA'LA' GUÅHAN
LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO • GOVERNOR OF GUAM | JOSHUA F. TENORIO • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF GUAM
MICHELLE C. R. LASTIMOZA • ADMINISTRATOR

**Guam Environmental Protection Agency
Board of Directors' Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2026**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER: Director Steven Carbullido called the Board of Director's meeting to order from the Guam EPA conference room at 4:04pm. Roll call certified by Acting Board Secretary, Arlene Acfalle, as follows:

II. BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Chairman Steven Carbullido	- Present – in person
Vice Chairman Steven Carrara	- Present – in person
Director Steven Hollister	- Present – In person
Director Fran Castro	- Present – In person
Director Cathleen Moore-Linn	- Present – In person
Director Heather Quitugua	- Present – In person

Quorum has been established

Guam EPA Staff: Michelle C.R. Lastimoza, Glenn San Nicolas, Arlene Acfalle, Kristan Finney, Connie Afilleje, CAPT. Elizabeth DeGrange, Malia Tom, and Peter Bautista

General Public: Joseph Taitano II, Irvin Slike (GSWA)

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Director Quitugua made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Carrara. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

IV. APPROVAL OF January 22, 2026 MEETING MINUTES: Director Moore-Linn made a motion to approve the January 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Director Hollister. All in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

V. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION:

Guam Solid Waste Authority (GSWA) Request for 1st Qtr. FY2020 Reimbursement -

Mr. Irvin Slike, GSWA General Manager, advised GSWA submitted their quarterly request for reimbursement outlining the expenditures for various categories. Chairman Carbullido prefaced that based on 10 GCA CH 51 § 51310, the Administrator is authorized to annually reimburse GSWA up to FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND and that GSWA shall submit a proposal, including total costs, to the Administrator and Board for approval.



Chairman Carbullido stated the law is not clear if the proposal is an upfront proposal or after the fact cost expended. GM Slike advised it is after the fact. Director Castro advised it looks like it has already been done so GSWA is requesting for a reimbursement. Vice Chairman Carrara inquired if the \$400K is the total cost of the program or just the allowable reimbursable amount. GM Slike confirmed it is just the reimbursable amount, as the total cost of the program is over a million dollars.

Director Quitugua made a motion to approve the proposal, seconded by Director Castro. All in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Personnel:

- As of 01/09/2026: **53 FTEs** (Full-Time Equivalent)

DIVISION	PROGRAM	EMPLOYEES
Administration	EXECUTIVE	3
Administrative Services	ADMINISTRATIVE	6
Administration	PERMITTING	2
Air and Land	SOLID WASTE	4
Air and Land	HAZWASTE	3
Air & Land	AIR POLLUTION	2
Air & Land	DSMOA	2
Air and Land	GREEN PARCEL	3
Air and Land	PESTICIDES	2
Air and Land	RECYCLING	1
Water	CHIEF ENGINEER	1
Water	WATER POLLUTION	3
Water	SAFE DRINKING WATER	3
Water	WATER RESOURCES	2
Water	INSPECTORS	5
EMAS	LABORATORY	3
EMAS	MONITORING AND ANALYTICAL	5
EMAS	SENIOR SCIENCE ADVISOR	1
EMAS	NON-POINT SOURCE	2
TOTAL		53

Recruitment:

DIVISION / PROGRAM	POSITION	#	STATUS
ADMINISTRATION	PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER	1	Interviews completed
EMAS	ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN	1	Placed on continuous listing with DOA
WATER/ AIR AND LAND	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST I	4	Interviews completed. Four selected. One selectee declined, one selectee is not eligible to work in the US. A supplemental list has been requested from DOA.



Agency Headquarters:

- **UPDATE:** Ongoing discussions with Kunimoto Designs. A&E firm will have 6 months to provide a design for the new building
- Tires – Two million tires – working on IFB for removal and disposal. Estimated at \$4Million

POLICY:

Public Hearing on Proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Regulations For Residential Septic Tank and Leaching System and Temporary Toilet Facilities

- 22 GAR 12 (Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal System Regulations)
- Picked up approval memo from OAG on February 6, 2026.
 - The memo from OAG said that the rules were “recommended for approval.” This probably wouldn’t be sufficient because the AAL requires “approval of the Attorney General”

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/PARTNERSHIPS:

Dieldrin Townhall - Yigo

- Working with Mayor Lizama on date for a town hall meeting scheduled for February 25th

GEPA-USEPA-GWA Dieldrin Response

- Currently working with USEPA and Joint Region Marianas on the investigation plan.
 - Legal Basis: Federal Facility Agreement (CERCLA § 120) requires investigation / remediation of contamination
 - Potential Source: Former AAFB housing units (1950s-60s), demolished 2016-2017. Soil studies (2022, 2024 NAVFAC reports) found dieldrin exceedance in shallow soils.

CAPT. DeGrange updated that the agreement is to have JRM submit their final sampling plan or scoping assessment by the 27th. Guam EPA walked them through the data that the agency used to substantiate the request. Captain noted some of the sampling will occur outside the back gate of Anderson, because they identified that area near Y-15 as being federal property and will be included.

GEPA-DPHSS-ATSDR

- Working with ATSDR to provide the following data:
 - **Drinking Water exposures**
 - Public water wells/systems: Sampling data on dieldrin, chlordane, and PFAS for all public water wells/ systems and timeframes of interest
 - 11 public drinking water systems in Guam. We need to determine which systems we want ATSDR to assess
 - Researching data dating back to 1995
 - Private Wells: are any private wells in Guam used for drinking water? If so, is there dieldrin, chlordane or PFAS sampling data from private wells?
 - **Crops (agricultural exposures)**
 - Irrigation water: Are any wells used exclusively for irrigation or livestock watering purposes? If so, are we are of any dieldrin, chlordane, or PFAS sampling data for irrigation wells?



- Soil: Are any sampling data available for dieldrin, chlordane, or PFAS in garden/farm soils?
- Crops/livestock: Are any sampling data available for dieldrin, chlordane, or PFAS in garden/farm crops or livestock? We need to determine if we want farms, and which locations, inspected
- **Fish/shellfish consumption exposures**
 - ATSDR has Guam EPA's Chlordane and dieldrin TMDLs for Tumon Bay report, which includes some fish tissue data. We are researching if there are other fish or shellfish sampling data available.

Palisades NOV Landslide October 15, 2025

- On-going
 - Hearing scheduled for March 16 at 11am
 - GEPA issued a stop-work order to Palisades Estates, a housing development being built on the Maite cliff line on October 15, 2025.
 - A Notice of Violation and Order of Compliance (NOV/OC) was issued on October 31, 2025. Eight separate violations under the water pollution and soil erosion regulations, with fines up to \$1.7M.
 - After mitigations plans were submitted to properly address the stormwater management, Guam EPA lifted the stop-work order in order for the developer to finish and maintain the stormwater management system for the duration of construction, which will reduce the risk of another land slide.

DPW-GEPA MOA – Abandoned Vehicles

- Board Approval on 12/03/2025
 - Approval amount of TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$2,000,000) to DPW from the RRF for the sole purpose of implementing the AJVRP to remove and dispose recyclable materials generated from abandoned and junk vehicles on public easements on Guam
 - MOA signed, DPW has funds in their account and they are looking to issue an RFP for a contractor.

Director Moore-Linn recommended the agency (GEPA) to keep track of the RFP issuance process as people want a resolution to this problem. Administrator Lastimoza advised DPW is also working closely with the village mayors as they still facilitate complaints about junk vehicles.

Director Quitugua added the agency should also look into the unpermitted car repair shops on personal properties. Acting Deputy SN advised there are certain things that households are allowed to do without a permit provided there are no complaints. Acting Deputy SN shared that the agency has found that these individuals hold vendor licenses to provide services. While they may not be operating in the correct zone, the enforcement of these zoning issues would fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works (DPW) or the Department of Land Management. Regarding the potential violations, Guam EPA recommends remediation if they involve solid or hazardous waste, as these may pose a public safety risk. Acting Deputy SN has stated this has to be a multi-agency discussion.



Director Castro recommended for GEPA to bring this up with the Island Wide Beautification Task Force (IWBTf). Administrator Lastimoza advised when working with Senator Perez to make revisions to junk vehicles, there was a point made between junk and treasure especially if the vehicle still has value to the owner.

GEPA-USEPA

- Meeting with USEPA Deputy Regional Administrator tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2026, with Division Director meetings the a week prior and also to attend a PFAS training

RRF Audit

- OPA auditing the Recycling Revolving Fund (RRF) (5591001-619-00 / 361962201)
- Ongoing
 - Submitted expenditures for both the continuous and annual accounts for FY2017 to FY2025

Chairman inquired on what documents were submitted to OPA. Ms. Connie Afilleje advised the OPA only wanted expenditures and MOA's that were tied to the RRF.

Marianas Island Conservation Strategy

- Ongoing
 - Draft sent to the Governor for review
 - Continued engagement with DOD, US Fish and Wildlife, and DOI focused on developing and promoting conservation and recovery initiatives for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species while promoting increased flexibility for military mission activities
 - Discussed proactive, innovative and collaborative approaches that enhance implementation of the Endangered Species Act, sustain and enhance the military mission, and achieve greater conservation outcomes for species

GHURA Technical Assistance Workshop for Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)

- On-going
- GHURA Board unanimously approved the hiring of 75 temporary employees under the CDBG-DR grant
 - GEPA requested for inspectors, engineers, and program coordinators. Total of 10 positions
- Guam EPA was invited to offer a project proposal for consideration. Ongoing
 - Considering a hardened space for a disaster debris transition site on the Dededo site to offer a temporary site, designed to handle and process debris following a disaster. This space will be strategically located and designed to withstand potential hazards, while also providing infrastructure for efficient debris management, including sorting, storage, and potentially recycling or disposal
 - Infrastructure will require space for roads, safety buffers, and potentially burn pits (green waste) or hazardous waste areas. Adequate utility access (power, water) is also crucial



- Environmental Considerations: Proper management of runoff, dust control, and other environmental impacts is essential. Considering installing oil-water separator for use as a wash station for fleet of cars when not used as a transition site
- Hazardous Materials: Specific areas will be designated for handling and storing hazardous materials, potentially requiring specialized containers and procedures

Chairman Carbullido inquired about the tasks for the 10 proposed employees. Administrator Lastimoza advised that two or three individuals will likely be assigned to assist with the permitting program’s workload. Administrator noted that assignments will depend on the positions filled and stated that GHURA plans to recruit at an above-step level, whereas Guam EPA currently recruits at the entry-level. Administrator added that GHURA, being an autonomous agency, can hire at an above step level.

INSPECTION ACTIVITY – January 12, 2026 – February 6, 2026

DIVISION	PROGRAM	TYPE OF INSPECTION	# OF INSPECTIONS
AIR & LAND	AIR POLLUTION	Dust Control	6
AIR & LAND	GREEN PARCELS	Project Site	3
AIR & LAND	HAZWASTE	Above Ground Storage Tanks	0
AIR & LAND	HAZWASTE	Underground Storage Tanks	0
AIR & LAND	PESTICIDES	Marketplace Inspection	3
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Complaints Litter Citations	34 7
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Building Permit Occupancy inspections Written Warning	39 15 1
WATER	INSPECTORS / WPC	Ocular, Septic & leaching, Grease trap inspections, complaints, H2, stormwater, compliance, UIC, Product / Irrigation wells and occupancy permits	130
WATER	SAFE DRINKING WATER	Lead Free Inspection	33
WATER	WATER RESOURCES	Underground Injection Control Production Well Inspections	15 2
EMAS	MONITORING	Complaint	1
TOTAL	289		



PERMIT ACTIVITY: January 12, 2026 – February 6, 2026

PERMIT TYPE	APPLICATIONS*	ISSUANCES**	HOLDS***
Building Permit Clearance	19	25	1
Clearing/Grading Clearance	4	2	0
Occupancy Clearance	22	16	1 (LFC)
Underground Injection Control Permit	9	3	0
H2B Clearance	11	7	0
Well Operating Permit	2	0	0
Well Abandonment Permit	0	0	0
Well Drilling Permit	4	7	0
Test Boring Permit	10	9	0
Application Review Committee Review	5	1	0
Aboveground Storage Tank (AST)	0	5	0
Underground Storage Tank (UST)	0	175	0
Solid Waste Management Permit	Not on WALTERS	1	0
Wastewater Collection Permit	Not on WALTERS	0	0
MILCON	3	7	0
Highway Encroachment	0	2	0
Burial at Sea	Not on WALTERS	2	0
Notice of Arrivals (Pesticides)	Not on WALTERS	258	0
Notice of Intent (Pesticides)	Not on WALTERS	37	0
TOTALS	97*	565**	2***

*Applications received between January 12, 2026 – February 6, 2026

**Includes approved permits and clearances granted to applications submitted prior to November 3, 2025.

***Includes permit and clearance holds applied to applications submitted prior to November 3, 2025.

Chairman opened it up questions or comments.

Director Moore-Linn inquired if there was an end date to the grant funding for the new building.

Administrator Lastimoza noted that it is a five-year grant cycle and the agency has received four years of funding at approximately \$9 million per year. While there was initial concern that Guam EPA might not receive the fifth year of funding, the US EPA Deputy Administrator has since indicated that we can anticipate our federal allotment, minus 3%, which would also include the \$9million for the fifth year.



However, until this federal funding is officially secured, the Administrator stated that Guam EPA maintains its request for \$5.7 million from the general fund.

STATUS REPORTS/ ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

- Tutujan Holdings Guam LLC – Ms. Kristan Finney, Guam EPA Legal Counsel, advised there is a pre-hearing conference is scheduled for March 16 2026.
- Licensing Decision for Mr. Charles Coffindaffer/ Challenge Testing Inc. – Ms. Finney advised there is a hearing scheduled for Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at the Office of the Attorney General. Assigned hearing officer is Ms. Stacy Anderson.

Chairman Carbullido noted that according to Guam Law, a hearing officer may hear a case alone and forward a recommendation to the Board, or the case may be heard by both the Board and the hearing officer together. The Board previously decided to make this determination on a case-by-case basis.

Vice Chair Carrara recommended the board vote on how this case will be heard. VC Carrara made a motion for the Hearing Officer to hear this NOV alone, as the meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2026, and provide their recommendation memo to the board for approval, seconded by Director Moore-Linn. All voted in favor. None opposed. Motion passed.

REVISE DIELDRIN IAL REGULATIONS: Capt. DeGrange provided update to the Revised Risk Assessment Document: Interim Action Level for Dieldrin established by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency Board of Directors on November 21, 2024. **Copies available upon request**

Capt. DeGrange also advised that in order to make the proposed modifications to the IAL it has to go out for public comment again and noted Public Comment will commence on Friday, February 20th through March 6, 2026 at 11:59pm. Public Hearing will be held on March 6, 2026 at 3pm at the Guam EPA Administration Building Conference Room.

Director Hollister inquired how long it takes dieldrin to breakdown. Capt. DeGrange advised it is a persistent chemical. Capt. DeGrange stated based on data the expected half-life is 5yrs but on tropical conditions it should breakdown within a month. Capt. DeGrange noted there may be a point source, but we still don't know, and that is part of the investigation plan with US EPA and JRM but one of the indicators that concerns GEPA is the fact that the concentrations have been consistent.

NOTICE OF VIOLATION'S – Chairman Carbullido inquired if there have been any new NOV's. GEPA noted there were no new NOV's issued since the last board meeting.

New Meeting Date/Adjournment: Next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 19, 2026. Director Castro made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Director Quitugua. All in favor, zero (0) opposed, and regular meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Arlene M.S. Acfalle
Acting Board Secretary

