



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, October 24, 2024

### MINUTES

- **Call to Order:** Chairman Carbullido called the Board of Director's meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. from the Guam EPA Conference Room. Roll call has been certified by Acting Board Secretary, Arlene Acfalle, as follows:

#### **Board Members:**

Chairman Steven Carbullido	- Present (in-person)
Vice Chairman Steve Carrara	- Present (in-person)
Director Steven Hollister	- Not present (off-island)
Director Fran Castro	- Present (in-person)
Director Danny Taitingfong	- Present (in-person)
Director Cathleen Moore-Linn	- Present (in-person)

*\*Quorum has been established\**

**Guam EPA Staff:** Michelle Lastimoza, Nic Lee, Arlene Acfalle, Connie Afilleje, Sabrina Cruz-Sablan, Elizabeth DeGrange, Malia Tom

**General Public:** Mayor Jesse Alig, Joy Jean Arceo (MCOG Executive Director), Frank San Nicolas

- **Approval of Agenda:** Vice-Chairman Carrera made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Castro. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.
- **Approval of September 2024 Meeting Minutes:** Director Castro made a motion to approve the September 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Director Moore-Linn. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.
- **FY25 MCOG Islandwide Environmental Cleanup Program** – Presented by Mayor Jesse Alig  
Mayor Alig advised the MCOG submitted the Operations and Expenditure Plan for FY25 and stated the Operation's Plan, for the most part, remains the same as FY24. MCOG will continue to work with Guam EPA with communicating with their vendors, invoicing and recordation of all the purchase orders. Mayor Alig stated unlike past years, the MCOG is requesting for the total \$1.5Mil to be released simply because they believe that the plan could be executed much quicker. This is a result of a new MCOG Executive Director and additional staffing.

Mayor Alig added that MCOG still has to close out FY23 and promises to have this completed by Guam EPA's November board meeting. He also mentioned the closeout of FY24 will be awhile as



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there are still invoices that need to be submitted. Mayor Alig stated out of the \$1.5Mil, \$1.1Mil has been allocated and added that for FY25, with more time, MCOG should be able to use the whole \$1.5Mil.

Chairman inquired with Mayor Alig on the reconciled amount for FY23 and if the numbers have been agreed upon with Guam EPA. Mayor Alig advised he is not able to provide an answer and stated that he is still waiting on the report from their Admin division and will submit it to Guam EPA's before the November meeting.

Chairman inquired with Ms. Connie Afilleje and Ms. Sabrina Cruz-Sablan on the FY23 funds. Connie advised she does not know the true balances with the new system and stated the agency is still working with DOA. Chairman Carbullido and Director Castro inquired on a rough figure for FY23. Connie stated from what she can see on the new system it remains at \$400K but this is still pending invoices that need to be submitted to DOA for processing. Director Moore-Linn inquired if the excess funds that are not expended goes back to the RRF or does it get rolled over. Sabrina advised it is able to be rolled over as authorized on the budget bill.

Chairman advised that FY24 invoices are still being submitted and deadline is in December. Sabrina clarified that it is actually due November 26<sup>th</sup> and also stated she continues to work closely with the MCOG Admin staff. Mayor Alig chimed in and stated they anticipated the balance of \$300K to be rolled over from FY24.

Connie also advised Mayor Alig and Ms. Arceo that DOA sent out a circular with a deadline of November 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> to submit FY24 invoices for the closeout.

Board of Directors discussed the MCOG FY25 Expenditure Plan for proper invoicing, documentation, oversight and procurement regulations with back up documentation with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Chairman inquired if the MOA was going to be similar to prior years in which Sabrina advised it is.

Chairman Carbullido requested if there was motion. Director Castro made a motion to approve the MCOG FY25 Expenditure Plan and to release the full amount of \$1.5Mil, seconded by Vice Chairman Carrara. All voted in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

▪ **Administrator's Report** - Provided by Administrator Michelle Lastimoza

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

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**Personnel:**

- **RECRUITMENT:**
  - Hired a new Chemist I on October 7.
  - 1 resignation effective October 18 (Environmental Tech I)
  - Received certification packet for EHS I (2 vacancies)
  - Received certification packet for the Biologist I position (1 vacancy)
- As of 10/18/2024: there were **53 FTEs** (Full-Time Equivalent)

**Agency Headquarters:**

- **UPDATE:** Contract negotiation in progress. CAPT. DeGrange, Administrator Lastimoza, Deputy Lee, Connie and Serena have been looking over the verbiage and language of the



contract to ensure everything that the agency requires is part of the architectural and engineering services.

### **Administrator Travel:**

- **Global Nature Positive Summit – Sydney, Australia  
October 7 to 10, 2024**

Clementine Turgeon, Arlene Acfalle and Administrator Lastimoza attended the Global Nature Positive Summit in Sydney, Australia from Oct.6-11. The Summit focused on how nature-positive strategies are reshaping industries and driving meaningful change by recognizing the important role of nature and providing services to businesses. Whether raw material, metal, water, or specific ecosystem, businesses have to understand the impact they can have and to respect the intrinsic link between nature, climate, biodiversity, and the ecosystems we rely on. Each breakout session had a consistent narrative around nature conservation and invest in risk prevention and management. For example, investing in preventive measures at the start of business operations vs. costly repair, mitigation, clean-up, and litigation later down the line. So these partnerships with government, policy makers, scientists, financial analysts, technologists, NGOs, and business serve as a bridge for measurement and metrics towards a nature positive business strategy and an emergence of a new skill set of sustainability professionals. Moreover, the recurring sentiment of the summits was it was time for action. There has been enough planning, enough discussion, and the time was now to do something.

- **ASTSWMO Annual Meeting – Washington, DC  
October 17-18, 2024**

(ASTSWMO) annual meeting in Washington DC from October 15-19. Topics and updates were discussed for Brownfields, Federal Facilities, Hazardous Waste, Materials Management, Superfund, and Tanks programs. Other agencies, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters and Regional staff, Department of Defense (DoD) and other Federal Agency officials, and other partners were present.

The meeting theme is “50 Years of ASTSWMO”, and the meeting sessions focused on the past, present, and future of the Association and the work that has been accomplished with its members and partners. I attended the Hazardous Waste sessions, which included updates on:

- The ASTSWMO Hazardous Waste Subcommittee submitted comments to EPA on June 20, 2024 regarding the proposed Revisions to Standards for the Open Burning/Open Detonation (OB/AD) of waste explosives
- The ASTSWMO Hazardous Waste Subcommittee submitted comments to EPA on April 8, 2024 regarding the proposed rule, Listing of Specific PFAS as Hazardous Constituents
- The ASTSWMO Hazardous Waste Subcommittee submitted comments to EPA on March 26, 2024 regarding the proposed rule, Definition of Hazardous Waste Applicable to Corrective Action for Releases From Solid Waste Management Units
- Hazardous Waste Electronic Manifest System (“e-Manifest”) a national system for tracking hazardous waste shipments electronically. The new and final “Third Rule” (2024) integrates export manifest and manifest-related reports.
- Beginning January 22, 2025, Large and Small Quantity Generators (LQGs and SQGs) are required to register for e-Manifest through RCRA Info.



## **POLICY:**

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### **UPDATE: Bill 249-37: Authorizing Guam EPA and the Guam Coastal Management Program to hire Environmental Law Attorneys**

- Bill was amended to strike out any recruitment and instead authorize the agency to seek professional legal services via RFP
- Passed by the legislature on October 7, awaiting executive action

### **Update: Cathleen Moore-Linn confirmed to Guam EPA Board – September 27**

- Agency supports the nominee
- Moore-Linn is the current executive director of the UOG Research Corporation

## **PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/PARTNERSHIPS:**

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### **Agency provided a Letter of Support to UOG CIS and SeaGrant – September 27:**

- As part of an environmental justice grant opportunity, UOG CIS and SeaGrant with Guahån Sustainable Culture is attempting to establish a Plastic Upcycling Hub in an effort to increase plastic collection and recycling on the island

### **Agency attended the second Attaining Housing Commission Meeting – October 3:**

- Commission is still in the process of establishing sub committees between the different member of the commission which include: GPA, GWA, GHURA, OHAPP, DLM, GHC, DPW, CLTC and GEDA
- The AHC was established through Governor's Executive Order on June 28, 2024 to make recommendations on housing related policies and convening quarterly roundtable discussions on specific housing issues
- Issues and actions specific to Guam EPA include:
  - Examine existing statutes and rules that create unwarranted impediments to housing development and recommending revisions
  - Measures to reduce and mitigate potential nitrate pollution, including but not limited to incentives for residents to connect to government sewer systems and to encourage development in less densely populated areas on Guam

### **Agency participated in the First Annual Agricultural Symposium on October 8:**

- Hosted by the Northern Guam Soil & Water Conservation District, Department of Agriculture and Guahån Sustainable Culture at the Guam Museum
- Guam EPA Pesticides Enforcement Program and the Solid Waste Management Program offered presentations on pesticides certification and training and the Guam Zero Waste Masterplan
- Agency personnel also performed outreach at a booth in the museum
- The goal of the symposium was to enable self-subsistence and aspiring farmers to become certified and to enable commercial farmers to improve food security efforts

### **US EPA Drinking Water Section on island to perform a File Review on Safe Drinking Water Data submissions – October 9–18:**

- Guam EPA has primacy over our drinking water and this review (FR) is performed to ensure adequate program implementation in accordance with primacy requirements.



- FR also evaluates whether the Guam EPA SDWP correctly determines and records compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) in Guam EPA SDWP’s database of record
- FR team will also verify whether information in Guam EPA SDWP’s program files and database is consistent with what is presently in the federal database of record, the SDWIS/Federal Reporting Services (SDWIS/Fed)
- FR team will also compare the actions and policies of Guam EPA SDWP with the requirements of the federal NPDWRS.
- Review went well and the FR team has made recommendations for agency SDWP to implement, and a commitment was made by the FR team to provide training in areas to strengthen primacy efforts

**Agency attended Lt. Governor Josh Tenorio’s Islandwide Beautification Task Force Meeting October 10:**

- Workshops made possible by the SWIFR grant award received last year
- GSC chosen as the sub-awardee and has updated their schedule:
  - Oct. 19, 9AM - 10:30AM at the Dededo Mayor’s Office/Senior
  - Nov. 23, 9AM - 10:30AM at the Inalåhan Mayor’s Office/Community Center
  - Dec. 7, 9AM – 10:30AM at the MTM Mayor’s Office/Community Center
  - For more information, call 671-734-4721 / 671-987-1296 or email [villagecompost@gusustainable.org](mailto:villagecompost@gusustainable.org)

**UPDATE: Establishment of Interim Action Levels for Dieldrin Released – As of October 18:**

KEY DATES	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS
Thursday, June 6	Reserve publication space for public notices in the Guam Daily Post for public hearing and 45-day public comment	COMPLETED
Monday, June 10	Public hearing/comment period notice #1	COMPLETED
	Start 45-day public comment period	COMPLETED
	Publish Dieldrin IAL paper for review at administration building and agency website	COMPLETED
Monday, June 17	Public hearing/comment period notice #2	COMPLETED
Monday, June 24	Public hearing w/Patrick Wilson and SDW	COMPLETED
Wednesday, August 14	End 45-day public comment period	COMPLETED
To Be Determined	Agency review/response to comments from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GWA, Senator Sabina Perez, Former Senator Hope Cristobol and Prutehi Litekyan</li> </ul>	IN PROGRESS
To Be Determined	Board meeting to consider, adopt, modify IAL	Pending



**PERMIT ACTIVITY: September 23 – October 18**

PERMIT TYPE	APPLICATIONS*	ISSUANCES**	HOLDS***
Building Permit Clearance	24	26	3
Clearing/Grading Clearance	9	5	0
Occupancy Clearance	20	21	0
Underground Injection Control (UIC) Permit	1	2	0
H2B Clearance	6	5	0
Well Operating Permit	0	0	0
Well Abandonment Permit	1	1	0
Well Drilling Permit	1	1	0
Test Boring Permit	10	5	0
Application Review Committee (ARC) Review	0	0	0
Aboveground Storage Tank (AST)	3	4	0
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Permit	0	0	0
Solid Waste Management Permit	0	4	1
Wastewater Collection Permit	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>75*</b>	<b>74**</b>	<b>4***</b>

\*Applications received between September 23, 2024 through October 18, 2024

\*\*Includes approved permits and clearances granted to applications submitted prior to September 23.

\*\*\*Includes permit and clearances holds applied to applications submitted prior to September 23.

**Chairman Carbullido opened the floor for questions or comments.**

Director Castro inquired if the agency collects funds when we issue litter citations. Administrator advised the litter citations fall under the Uniform Tickets that gets submitted to the courts through their traffic control. Administrator noted that the agency receives 100% if we issue the citation.

Director Castro inquired if the comments that were received, in regards to dieldren, can be shared. Deputy Lee advised all the comments will be posted on Guam EPA website as soon as the safe drinking water program is done responding to them. Director Castro requested to have it included this in the November agenda for presentation/discussion.

**Notice of Violations** – No new NOV’s or appeals reported at this time. Chairman Carbullido requested to have a list provided in the Administrator’s report at the November’s meeting.



**New Meeting Date/Adjournment:** Next meeting was set for November 21, 2024 at 4pm. Director Castro made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Director Moore-Linn. All in favor, zero (0) opposed, and regular meeting adjourned at 4:43pm.

Arlene S. Acfalle  
Acting Board Secretary



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