Guam Environmental Protection Agency
Board of Directors' Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 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 4:07pm. 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	- Not Present
Director Heather Quitugua	- Present – In person

Quorum has been established

Guam EPA Staff: Glenn San Nicolas, Arlene Acfalle, Kristan Finney, Malia Tom, and Nicole Diras

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

IV. **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 2026 MEETING MINUTES:** Director Castro made a motion to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Director Hollister. All in favor, zero (0) opposed and motion passes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Personnel:

- As of 03/19/2026: **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	4

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Air & Land	AIR POLLUTION	2
Air & Land	DSMOA	2
Air and Land	GREEN PARCEL	2
Air and Land	PESTICIDES	2
Air and Land	RECYCLING	1
Water	CHIEF ENGINEER	1
Water	WATER POLLUTION	3
Water	SAFE DRINKING WATER	4
Water	WATER RESOURCES	2
Water	INSPECTORS	4
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
EMAS	ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN	1	Placed on continuous listing with DOA
WATER/ AIR AND LAND	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST I	2	Continuous listing. Waiting on supplemental list 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
  - March 3, 2026, 30% Design Presentation
- Tires
  - Two Million tires
  - IFB for removal and disposal $4M approved by USEPA
  - IFB will be submitted by March 27, 2026
    - Contract for removing and disposing of used tires and scrap metal, including mobilization, equipment, labor, processing, site certification, and handling recovered materials for off-island shipment. Location: L10122-14NEW-R1, Guam, Estate No. 86370, Batulo St. Dededo.

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 26, 2026.
  - March 11, 2026 – Delivered to Central Files (Adelup) for the Governor's approval.

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PROGRAMS/PROJECTS/PARTNERSHIPS:

Dieldrin

- Yigo Townhall meeting on February 25th with over 100 hundred attendees
- Yigo Mayor live streamed the Townhall on their YouTube channel
- CAPT. Elizabeth DeGrange presented on the agency's activities since the last Townhall and discussed next steps regarding the soil study and public health assessment
- DoAG and GWA were present but did not get a chance to speak because the focus shifted to public comments and questions just as DoAG started their discussion
- We have received over 30 claims through the OAG, which we are still reviewing for a response
    - Most claims seek $500,000, health monitoring and reimbursement for or installation of point-of entry (POE) systems

GEPA-USEPA-GWA Dieldrin Response

- Currently working with USEPA and Joint Region Marianas (JRM) 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.

- USEPA/Guam EPA Joint Letter dated 23 Dec 2025 requesting JRM to prepare and submit a workplan for the dieldrin source investigation by 27 Feb 2026.
    - Draft workplan received by Guam EPA on February 27, 2026. The plan is currently under review. ***Document contained Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) For Official Use Only (FOUO)***

GEPA-DPHSS-ATSDR – No update at this time

- 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?

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- 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS STATUS – Update by Ms. Kristan Finney, Guam EPA Legal Counsel

- Coffindaffer well driller's license application – an evidentiary hearing was held on February 24, 2026 before the hearing officer, who will be making recommendations to the Guam Board of Directors. The hearing officer will prepare a written recommendation to the board.

  Chairman Carbullido updated that the hearing officer will provide a proposed decision to the board by March 26, 2026.

- Tutujan/ Palisades – a status conference was held on March 17 at 11am regarding the appeal of the October 31, 2025 Notice of Violation. Ms. Finney advised, AAG Staci Anderson instructed that the evidentiary hearing will be heard before the board and she would like to see a resolution with the names of the board members who will be in attendance. Ms. Finney advised the hearing will be sometime in July and set to last 6 to 7 days.

  Chairman Carbullido noted the board hasn't decided whether the board will hear the case with the Hearing Officer or if the Hearing Officer only will hear it.

- Tutujan/ Stella Maris – a hearing officer was requested to hear the appeal from the January 21, 2026 Notice of Violation

GEPA- USEPA

- Meeting with USEPA USEPA Regional Administrator / Quarterly Pacific Island Environment Directors Meeting: March 13, 2026, with Division Director meetings the following week

RRF AUDIT – No update at this time.

- 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

MARIANAS ISLAND CONSERVATION STRAEGY – No updates at this time

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

- On-going

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- GHURA Board unanimously approved the hiring of 75 temporary employees under the CDBG-DR grant

Eight (8) positions were approved for the GEPA meeting scheduled on March 16, 2026 to discuss these positions.

On March 5, 2026, GEPA submitted a Hazard Mitigation Assistance Notice of Interest to the Guam Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense to qualify for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Mitigation Grant for a hardened, permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility for temporary collection of HHW during post-typhoon or disaster recovery to be constructed on 1 acre of the proposed Guam Environmental Resource Center.

- The CDBG-DR Portal for application submittal opens on March 30, 2026.

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

DIVISION	PROGRAM	TYPE OF INSPECTION	# OF INSPECTIONS
AIR & LAND	AIR POLLUTION	Dust Control	4
AIR & LAND	GREEN PARCELS	Project Site	3
AIR & LAND	HAZWASTE	Above Ground Storage Tanks Underground Storage Tanks	0 0
AIR & LAND	PESTICIDES	Marketplace Inspection	0
AIR & LAND	SOLID WASTE	Building Permit Occupancy inspections Complaints Facility Inspections Written Warning	33 10 24 2 2
WATER	INSPECTORS / WPC	Ocular, Septic & leaching, Grease trap inspections, complaints, H2, stormwater, compliance, UIC, Product / Irrigation wells and occupancy permits	94
WATER	SAFE DRINKING WATER	Lead Free Inspection	9
WATER	WATER RESOURCES	Underground Injection Control	0
EMAS	MONITORING	Aggregate	1
TOTAL	182		

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PERMIT ACTIVITY: February 9, 2026 – March 6, 2026

PERMIT TYPE	APPLICATIONS*	ISSUANCES**	HOLDS***
Building Permit Clearance	22	23	0
Clearing/Grading Clearance	7	4	0
Occupancy Clearance	15	16	0
Underground Injection Control Permit	1	9	0
H2B Clearance	16	18	0
Well Drilling Permit	2	4	0
Test Boring Permit	4	10	0
Application Review Committee Review	1	1	0
Aboveground Storage Tank (AST)	2	3	0
Underground Storage Tank (UST)	1	6	0
Solid Waste Management Permit	1	3	0
Wastewater Collection Permit	Not on WALTERS	0	0
MILCON	6	6	0
Highway Encroachment	0	0	0
Burial at Sea	Not on WALTERS	0	0
Notice of Arrivals (Pesticides)	Not on WALTERS	214	0
Notice of Intent (Pesticides)	Not on WALTERS	35	0
Air Pollution	2	5	0
TOTALS	**80***	**359****	**0*****

***Applications received between February 9, 2026 and March 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.**

REVISE DIELDRIN IAL REGULATIONS: Ms. Kristan Finney advised Guam EPA had a public hearing on March 6, 2026 and we did received public comments prior to the deadline. The agency is still reviewing those comments and we are hoping to have the responses ready for the board to vote on by the April board meeting.

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NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS – Chairman Carbullido inquired if there were any new NOV's issued since last board meeting. Acting Administrator San Nicolas advised there were none.

Chairman opened it up questions or comments.

Director Castro inquired about the comments regarding the design submittal for the new Guam EPA building. Acting Administrator San Nicolas (SN) advised of a significant change based on the 30% design submittal. Specifically, the EMAS program location has been switched; the EMAS staff will now be housed in the general area where the meeting rooms were originally planned. Acting Admin SN advised the meeting rooms were right behind the conference room so we swapped them out that way EMAS program will be closer to the laboratory, showers and the facilities in the back as of building. Acting Administrator explained often times they return wet so this will allow them to shower and get to their office space without going through the whole building.

Acting Administrator SN stated staffing numbers have been updated according to the program's recent authorization. The agency's plan is to accommodate staffing at 100% capacity. While we have not historically reached this level, this approach ensures we will have sufficient space in the event that all vacancies are filled.

Chairman Carbullido inquired on the latest update with the DPW abandoned vehicle program. Acting Administrator SN stated he is not sure where it is at right now but stated Guam EPA did a site visit for one of the recycling facilities but other than that DPW is still working on their RFP. Acting Administrator SN added the funds have been transferred but now it's a matter of them going through the procurement process to get things underway. Acting Administrator SN stated that the DPW compound is full and they are waiting until they get their RFP's out to relocate everything to the recycling facility.

Chairman Carbullido stated on the next Board meeting he would like to get a comprehensive update on the program execution and expenditure of funds. Director Castro echoed the Chairman's concern and stated DPW should provide an update because when they came in to request for the funds, DPW stated their RFP would be released within 30days of that meeting. Director Hollister mentioned DPW stated they were waiting for the recycler to set up shop in Guam from Saipan. Chairman Carbullido stated there are still the exiting companies that were used by MCOG and the holdup to remove waste should not be due to a Saipan company setting up shop in Guam.

Acting Administrator SN stated he doesn't think that was the holdup; it was just the merging of the program from MCOG to DPW and the approval of the $2Mill from the RRF. Acting Administrator SN stated for him personally because it's a new company (FSM) he said they wouldn't have to deal with space restraints and other issues that the existing facilities may be dealing with and logistically the new facility will be closer to DPW.

Director Castro also noted she would like to add the division head and programs supervisors on our next board agenda to discuss the status of their respective programs. Acting Administrator SN stated he likes the idea for program managers to explain their programs and to be involved. Director Castro

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stated it also gives the board an opportunity to understand what is going on within the agency that is not covered in the Administrator's report.

Director Quitugua mirrored Director Castro's concern and stated, when looking at the staffing, is the agency doing a lot with less, are the programs struggling, or are they holding firm but not able to complete certain projects. Acting Administrator stated he agrees and stated that is exactly what the agency is dealing with while operating at less than 50% not to mention we are losing 3 engineers. Acting Administrator SN added the agency needs help as inspections are falling behind and grant objectives may be jeopardized because of it and noted the major issue is recruitment as these vacancies are hard to fill.

Acting Administrator SN advised hopefully Guam EPA can do their position and salary study which would need to be contracted out. Acting Administrator SN stated we are hoping the Government of Guam's general fund can support this plan and added the Guam EPA is also looking to update its regulations and fee schedules. Director Quitugua chimed in stating if we are looking at staffing issues the agency needs to have a handle on who the competitors are because if we limit it to just Guam, and taking an average, we may still never hire people if the competitor has a higher salary. Director Castro agreed and stated the position and salary should match.

Acting Administrator updated the board on Guam EPA's plan for Earth Day starting with a Proclamation signing and an off-site event.

STATUS REPORTS/ ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS – See update on the Administrator's Report

NEW MEETING DATE/ADJOURNMENT: Next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2026. Director Hollister made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Vice Chairman Carrara. All in favor, zero (0) opposed, and regular meeting adjourned at 4:52pm.

Arlene M.S. Acfalle

Arlene M.S. Acfalle
Acting Board Secretary

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