

CNMI Interagency Watershed Group
25 January 2011

Meeting Participants: Mark Defley (NRCS RC&D), James Eller (NRCS), Robert Lorenz (CUC), Aric Bickel (DEQ), Pat Rasa (DPL), Pete Itibus (DPL), Peter Camacho (DPW), Steven Johnson (DEQ), Tim Lang (DEQ), Jon Alden (Saipan Mayor's Office), Manny Pangelinan (DLNR Forestry), Lisa Eller (DEQ), Fran Castro (DEQ), Rachel Zuercher (CRM)

Meeting Minutes:

Fran Castro opened the meeting with introductions and a brief history of the CNMI Interagency Watershed Group 1995-2003.

Rachel Zuercher introduced the "Saipan Stormwater Quality Sampling and Sub-watershed Boundary Delineation" project (RFP11-DEQ-039, currently out for bid).

Discussion regarding the selection of ten priority sites for surface water sampling yielded the following comments:

- The group should be sure to consider all factors that affect stormwater quality when determining testing sites.
- West Takpochau (Garapan) watershed has long been a priority site for stormwater sampling and we should be considered for this project.
- Paupau Beach is often red-flagged and would be an appropriate area to conduct sampling (especially along road drainages).
- CUC may benefit from surface water testing in Kagman, especially with the collection of data regarding nitrogen levels in water as they are considering constructing a sewage treatment plant in Kagman to ameliorate high Nitrogen levels in the aquifer that are assumed (but not proven) to come from septic tanks.
- CUC would like to see surface water copper levels tested at some point in the future.
- We should consider testing of persistent pollutants such as heavy metals, and "industrial" pollutants such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (in soil?).
- The 10 sites listed as high-priority impaired in the 305(b) water quality report could be used as the 10 water testing sites.

Other Meeting Notes

- Sid Castro of the Saipan Soil and Water Conservation District will be approached to chair the CNMI Interagency Watershed Group.
- The group should revise the mission, objectives, strategies and work tasks provided from previous group by Fran (attached to this email).