



I. Meeting Details:

Date: 6/26/2025

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Governor's Office, Large Conference Room, Agana, Guam

II. Participants:

Silver Jackets Meeting Minutes

Date: June 26, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Governor's Office, Large Conference Room, Agana, Guam

Participants

Matthew Santos (Bureau of Statistics and Plans - Deputy Director), Edwin Reyes (BSP – Guam Coastal Management Program Administrator), Margaret Aguilar (Guam EPA – Program Coordinator), Ronnie Chiguina (Guam Fire Department – Assistant Chief), Jay Doronila (USDA – NRCS District Conservationist), Esther Taitague (BSP – Guam Coastal Management Program Planner), Patrick Bowsher (NOAA – Forecast Meteorologist), Genevieve Miller (NOAA), Camille Quichocho (BSP – Guam Coastal Management Program Biologist), Carly Champaco-Munoz (BSP – Guam Coastal Management Program Special Projects Coordinator), Arnold Jose (Guam DPW), Louise Pascua (Guam EPA – Environmental Health Specialist), Steven Dierking (BSP – Guam Coastal Management Program Program Coordinator), Christian Benitez (BSP – Guam Coastal Management Program Planner), James E. Pangelinan III (BSP – Guam Coastal Management Program Planner)

Meeting Summary & Discussion Points

1. Table Top Exercise on Wildfires

- Held April 15, 2025 at Sinajana Mayor's Office Learning Resource Center.
- Over 50 attendees from multiple agencies including Guam Fire, NOAA, DPW, UOG Drone Corps, DPW, JRM, municipal offices and others.
- Simulated wildfire response and discussed interagency coordination.
- Noted gaps in communication, especially during post-Typhoon Mawar response.
- Highlighted roles and responsibilities of involved agencies.
- Encouraged continued exercises and discussions to improve wildfire mitigation.

2. Mean High Water Mark Campaign

- Remaining sign locations under SHPO consultation.
- Foundation installation quotes submitted to DPW.
- No further concerns raised by attendees.

3. Stormwater Drainage Manual Flood Calculation Tool Training

- Flood Calculation Took virtual training workshop was held on May 14, 2025, and was attended by over 100 professional engineers, architects and various regulatory agency representatives.
- Raised issue: discrepancies between IDF curves in Guam Transportation Stormwater Drainage Manual and Guam and CNMI Stormwater Drainage Manual. Design criteria is drastically different for stronger return period storms, e.g., 25-yr+ return period storms.
- BSP will be bringing back original manual authors for the Guam and CNMI Stormwater Drainage Manual to assess the need for updates to the manual.
- Mr. Santos emphasized any updates to Guam Transportation Stormwater Drainage Manual must be initiated by DPW and require Executive Order.
- Guam Contractors Association proposed offering an annual certification course on the flood calculation tool that was displayed and presented during the Flood Calculation Took virtual training workshop.
- There is interest in expanding the training to professional groups like Guam Society of Professional Engineers.

4. Finile River Project

- Project timeline extended; no current cost estimates.
- Plan to include it under CDBG mitigation funding (~\$15M available).
- Update pending before August.

5. Potential Silver Jackets Project Proposals

- Suggestions from tabletop exercise included:
 - Messaging and outreach on wildfire mitigation.
 - Community risk reduction initiatives.
 - Hosting more tabletop exercises.
 - Enhancing wildfire law enforcement (e.g., citing/arresting arsonists).
 - Development of early detection systems using cameras, AI, and satellite data.

- Use of mapping and monitoring tools (e.g., wildfire.org) to track and share burn areas.
- Coordination with telecommunications and utility companies discussed for cost-sharing.

6. FEMA FIRM and GIS Data Updates

- Coastal flood mapping completed using XBeach model.
- Floodway expansion confirmed, affecting more properties.
- VE zone draft maps to be finalized pending public engagement component.
- Drone imagery and GIS being used to improve building inventory and valuation data for modeling.

7. Structural Project Updates

- Mano River Project: \$12M earmarked; paused due to need for local cost-share and feasibility re-evaluation.
- Umatic River Project: split into dredging and bank stabilization. Meeting with mayor scheduled to identify priority erosion sites.
- Ongoing shoreline projects (e.g., Talofoto and Umatac) awaiting Phase II funding.

8. Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Projects

- Draft bid package reviewed; awaiting corrections and resubmission to DPW.
- Delays due to staff shortages and Maui response.
- One project involves property buyout to convert into green space.

9. Flood Policy Concerns and Options

- Concerns:
 - Lack of lead agency to enforce post-permit stormwater management.
 - No requirements for small parcel developments.
 - Tentative subdivision drainage plans often lack detail.
- Recommendations:
 - Strengthen ARC criteria enforcement.
 - Assign clear agency oversight.
 - Promote green infrastructure and low-impact design.
 - Explore retroactive application of updated standards (e.g., drainage manuals).

10. Subcommittee Formation

- Steering committee proposes three subcommittees:
 - Technology/Data: hazard data and analysis.
 - Policy: regulatory and legal frameworks.
 - CIP: funding strategies for long-term projects.
- Future meetings will confirm member participation and define focus areas.

11. Tumon Bay Stormwater Management Plan Project

- Project modeling phase requires rainfall data.
- Closest rain gage (at GIAA) suspected to be USGS-owned.
- NOAA to confirm ownership and assist with data access.

12. Assembly of Planners Symposium (August 19–20, 2025)

- Focus on legal/policy frameworks affecting development, natural hazards, and planning, while balancing conservation of Guam's natural resources.
- Members invited to propose panels and participate in discussions.

13. Watershed Planning Committee Meeting

- Scheduled for June 27, 2025, in-person.
- Topics from this meeting will be continued there.

14. Other Announcements and Final Comments

- Guam Fire Department briefed on arson enforcement and investigation capacity issues.
- EPA reestablishing Guam SERC/LEPC Commission for hazardous materials.
- US EPA managing three Superfund sites with active remediation.
- NOAA transitioning from KBDI to Grassland Fire Index for better fire risk predictions.
- EPA recruiting a Chief Engineer to better support Silver Jackets.

Action Items

- Next Silver Jackets meeting will be held September 23, 2025, with location TBD.
 - Finalize and distribute meeting minutes and next agenda.
 - Confirm GIAA rain gage status and obtain data for Tumon Bay modeling.
 - Follow up with Guam Contractors Association on certification program.
 - Begin feasibility scoping for wildfire early detection technologies.
 - Continue policy discussions at Watershed Planning Committee.
 - Coordinate with agencies for potential Assembly of Planners panel sessions.
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Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 PM.