

WERA 1004 Coordinating Committee Meeting  
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia  
January 17-18, 2011

**Attendees:**

Dan Aga, American Samoa Community College  
Singeru Singeo, College of Micronesia  
Robert Jackson, College of Micronesia  
Jim Currie, College of Micronesia  
Rick Vera Cruz, College of Micronesia  
Ross Manglona, Northern Marianas College  
Joaquin "Pedro" Deleon Guerrero, Northern Marianas College  
Sylvia Yuen, University of Hawaii  
Jim Hollyer, University of Hawaii  
Vanessa Troegner, University of Hawaii  
Lee Yudin, University of Guam  
Annie Santos, University of Guam  
Carol Lewis, University of Alaska-Fairbanks  
Raaj Kurapati, University of Alaska-Fairbanks

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Review of Agenda and confirmation with small changes to accommodate teleconference speakers
- III. Introduction of the ADAP partners, relationships, and a short history of the PLGA
- IV. Campus Updates
  - a. American Samoa Community College
    - i. ASCC is reviewing options for a reduction in hours for staff to address budget needs.
    - ii. ASCC accreditation is currently on "Warning" status, but they have just undergone a review on January 11, 2011. Expectations are that their status will be upgraded.
    - iii. The Wellness Center has had its groundbreaking ceremony. The project was funding with HATCH, and HUD funds.
    - iv. In the Nov 2010 election, American Samoa held a vote on constitutional referendum to allow AS to appoint its own chief justice and to give the Legislature veto power over the governor's veto. Unfortunately, this referendum was defeated and these powers remain with the US Secretary of the Interior.
  - b. College of Micronesia
    - i. Palau Community College and College of Micronesia FSM remain on "Warning" status for their accreditation. It is especially important to have accreditation because 60-79% of the college's revenue comes from tuition.

- ii. The Compact of Free Association between the Republic of Palau and the US has been approved by both parties (the negotiations are complete), but the compact has not been signed. There may be further negotiations underway to add US Postal Services to FSM and RMI, which was inadvertently missing from the FSM compact.
- iii. Job opportunities are limited in Micronesia, leading to a strong out-migration of people from Micronesia to Guam, Hawaii, and other parts of the Pacific.

\*\*Teleconference call with Scott Rupp to discuss regional climate change project. \*\*

- Dr. Rupp proposed a regional climate change project, using the SNAP (Scenarios Network for Alaska and Arctic Planning) project as a template. Since climate change mitigation strategies would entail global change, SNAP focuses on local and regional planning for adaptation to climate change, and policy development.
- Ideally, a regional project would find data sources of historical temperatures, and environmental conditions. Then, create climate change projections for locality. Data stores may be found at NOAA, Pacific RISA, East-West Center, etc. Funding for a regional project may include USDA-AFRI, NGOs, local government, DOI, or NPS.

\*\*Teleconference call with Rachel Novotny to discuss CHIL (regional childhood obesity project). \*\*

- Dr. Novotny's group attended a reverse site-visit in DC, to present a regional childhood obesity project to the USDA.
- Planning, management and communication of this grant will be critical in the coordination of research and extension activities. As such, Lee Yudin requests that he (and the other deans) be copied on emails, to their respective institutions, on messages concerning reports, budgets and funding. Also, if items are not received in a timely matter, please communicate directly with the deans. No one wants to see the project struggle because of lack of communication or action on behalf of their institution (or their scientists).
- The details are still being worked out, but the education component will provide opportunities for local students to join a degree-seeking program in nutrition.

c. University of Hawaii

- i. CTHAR has had 26 retirements in the past year, but not all are faculty – some are administrative professionals. Also, after the retirements, CTAHR has been given permission by the University administration to hire 14 new faculty members to replace some retirees. CTAHR can choose where to hire the faculty, but it still requires UH approval – at this point, six faculty positions have been approved.
- ii. CTAHR has moved from an Annual Impact Report, to four Quarterly Impact Reports.

d. Northern Marianas College

- i. After watching a documentary about the Cuban Petroleum crisis, NMC is looking at the connections between extension work and island sustainability. To purchase the video, The Power of Community – How Cuba Survived Peak Oil, go to <http://www.communitysolution.org/poc.html>.
- ii. In the last meeting, NMC reported that Ross Manglona was appointed acting dean for COMPAS. After negotiations failed, Ross remains the director of CSREES.
- iii. In the past 6 months, in addition to a reduction in work hours, CNMI government employees are now having “Payless – Paydays”.
- iv. CNMI is may be revising the land tenure system statues, to allow for longer leases, from 55 years to 90 years. At this time, no foreigners can own land in CNMI.

e. University of Guam

- i. Guam has a new governor, Eddie Baza Calvo.
- ii. Military buildup hasn’t started yet, and the resulting infrastructure improvements haven’t been realized. Plans are still in place to relocate a Marine division currently stationed on Okinawa.
- iii. The UOG president is supporting the development of a school of engineering. USDA and other agencies are assisting with the funding. As they grow, first as a department, they will be part of CNAS. The first two degrees offered are a Civil Engineering degree and an Environmental Engineering degree.

f. University of Alaska Fairbanks

- i. To facilitate student articulation, it has recently been proposed to the Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee that they allow any two-year degree (AA or AS) from an accredited junior college, be a suitable substitute for the core course requirements.
- ii. UAF is hosting the NEROC Administrators Meeting, May 22-25, 2011, in Anchorage, AK.

V. USDA – NIFA Report

- a. NIFA update distributed and discussed.

VI. Farm Bill

- a. Dr. Lee Yudin serves on the Farm Bill Committee. This is an opportunity for the insular areas to “start the language” for the FY2012 Farm Bill. The committee is working to make the following changes:
  - i. Adding language to authorize McIntire-Stennis (forestry funds) status to those institutions that don’t have it.

- ii. Keeping CariPac funding for the insular areas, to include RI (Resident Instruction), Distance Education, and Facilities funds.
- iii. Update the matching requirements for formula funds. UOG and UPR would like to see their matching requirement increased to a 1:1 match. The other institutes would continue to have a waiver of the matching requirement.
- iv. T-STAR and ADAP are now line items, but the committee needs to work on getting funding for these important projects.

#### VII. CariPac Consortium

- a. CariPac's next meeting is March 3-4, 2011. The program is entering Phase 7. In the next year, Dr. Yudin will be stepping down as the Principal Investigator. Funding remains strong. Also over the next year, an external evaluator (Jim Hollyer) will be meeting with each site to review progress.

#### VIII. Rat Lungworm Conference

- a. The meeting will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, August 2011 (\$50,000 in funding has been provided by the USDA). Jim and Vanessa will provide the logistical support to organize the conference. Most of the travel funds for this project are reserved for getting the experts from around the world: China, Thailand, and the Caribbean. As soon as the dates are finalized, we will be inviting everyone to attend. This may be a good use of ADAP Professional Development funds.
- b. For more about Rat lungworm go to our website:  
<http://www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/adap2/RatLungWorm/index.htm>
- c. Jim Hollyer has also recently submitted a grant proposal to investigate produce sanitizers that may combat RLW. We are waiting to hear back.

#### IX. Food Security Projects

- a. UH showed the four "Buy Local, It Matters" educational spots that we paid airtime for. UH also developed, and printed, farmer's market signs to identify locally grown produce.
- b. Dr. Verma (College of Micronesia) provided an overview of their program, which includes a section on traditional crops, farming systems, and how to compost.
- c. ASCC is working on many diverse mini-projects for Food Security.
  - i. ASCC's tissue culture lab is working to increase crop diversity.
  - ii. The nutritional analysis of *So'a* banana is underway – the trees are ready to harvest.
  - iii. ASCC also produced a Food Security calendar to raise awareness.
  - iv. Dr. Dan is interested in doing more work on Food Policy Councils, and is looking for additional funding/support for a review of agricultural law and food policy in American Samoa.
- d. NMC is concerned about food security and looking for ways to support their farmers by developing export markets. At this time, most growers are subsistence farmers. They

could increase production if there was a readily available market for their produce. Increased production would help the local markets, too.

- e. UOG made food security a principal focus of the last Asian Association of Agricultural Colleges and Universities (AAACU) meeting, October 27 to 29, 2010, “Re-engineering the Agricultural Education System to address Food Security, Water Issues and Climate Change”. Also, UOG participated in many community events to raise awareness.
  - f. UAF’s statewide food security study is being used as a template for the Alaska Division of Agriculture to conduct a statewide survey.
    - i. Also, the undergraduate student that worked on this project has developed a senior thesis around the topic, and will be presenting a poster at the WSARE meeting in Alaska.
- X. CHIL – Childhood Obesity
- a. Each of our institutions will be involved in a capacity determined by the needs of the CHIL program. All members of this coordinating committee are available to provide guidance, assistance, and contribute our experiences, in hopes of building a better program. At this time, the Board is concerned about the increased fiscal responsibilities for our institutions in handling a grant of this size.
- XI. NERAOC’s annual meeting will be hosted by UAF, May 22-25, 2011. UAF encourages the Board to send their fiscal personnel to this meeting. There will be a new track this year that focuses on the needs and questions on new professionals. Find details at <http://www.uaf.edu/ces/conferences/neraoc2011/information/>
- XII. Discussion and review of articles pertaining to succession planning at community colleges
- XIII. Next meeting – July 2011.
- a. Honolulu, Hawaii, in conjunction with the Summer Joint Meeting of the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors. July 10-13, 2011.
- XIV. Meeting adjourned.