

01/03/23 NACD Pacific Region Board Meeting

NACD's Pacific Region Board Meeting - ZOOM

January 3rd, 2023 at 4 PM Pacific / January 4th, 10 AM ChST.

Draft Agenda:

4pm Opening & Introduction from Region Chair – Michael Aguon, Guam Association of Conservation Districts (GACD)

Attendance:

Michael Aguon – GU, Pacific Chair
Mae Nakahata – HI, Pacific Vice Chair
Terri Preeg Riggsby – OR, Pacific 2nd Vice Chair
Doug Rushton – WA, NACD Board Member
Rick Gomez – CA, NACD Board Member
Tom Wehri – Pacific Executive Board Rep.
Michael Crowder – NACD President
Larry Davis – NACD Tribal RPG, Whatcom CD (WA)
Red Bradley – Alaska Village Initiatives
Cam Tredennick – CARCD Executive Director
Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio – Micronesia Conservation Trust
Patt Dorsey – National Wild Turkey Federation
Amber Johnson – USDA Palau
JB Martin – USDA Pacific Islands
Caleb Griffin – NACD Pacific Region Rep.

4:10 Discussion: Grant Writing Skills & Capacity – Mae Nakahata, Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

Mae -

Hopes to discuss ways to develop capacity and share resources as a group and to create a central location for grant support resources.

Recognizes that increasing grant writing skills and capacity at district level creates independence in resource and funding procurement.

Do any states provide grant writing and skill-building support to improve capacity at local level?

Terri –

Oregon Assoc. Conservation Districts employs experienced grant writer who funds her salary in addition to other state association projects via grants... like publications, events, etc. Grants cover employee time that is spent implementing funded projects, much like many non-profit entities.

Caleb –

NACD-developed grant skills training/workshop is in process of development, and we should learn more later this year.

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Mae –

Would like to plan regular meetings focused on developing grant writing skills and capacity throughout districts.

Could NACD be vehicle for collaboration on larger-scale grants affecting multiple states/territories/nations?

Cam –

Mentioned CARCD involvement with EPA grant application that may enhance district level fundraising to build local capacity, through state association. Broader regional collaborations may work with some programs.

May be aware of training on grant writing available for sharing. Will follow up if so.

Michael Crowder –

Climate Smart funding is still taking shape – more to come at or after the NACD annual meeting.

Collaborative grant writing classes and other sharing sessions could be facilitated via NACD as a network/platform.

Michael Aguon –

Much of Guam's district work with grants was developed through university partnerships and advisors; Districts and the university continue to support one another through shared success, and connections have resulted in district board recruitment of experienced grant writers.

Terri –

Larger (region-wide) scale collaboration on grants is likely a different conversation from district level grant writing skill and capacity building. Perhaps the two topics should be addressed separately.

Red –

"Alaska Village Initiatives does grant writing internally - usually me and my salary is built into the grant, but not for the grant writing internally, we absorb it.

Alaska Village Initiatives will be developing a self-paced online course on grant writing within the next year . . . it will be on our online portal and will be free for all."

Larry –

"My district hires staff with an expectation that they will have some experience with grant writing or quickly come up to speed since everyone is challenged to secure grants to keep the money coming in. (In April, the district will start collecting for each of the next ten years +/- \$500,000.00 from the county to support our work. Some, I'm sure can go toward staff development in grant writing or possibly even hiring some for that specific purpose.

Our local community college offers every quarter low-cost community/adult education courses on grant writing - from beginner to experienced.

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I am a member of a statewide NGO for nonprofits that allows me to access a number of free training opportunities, including grant writing.

Mackenzie Scott (former Mrs. Bezos) is literally giving away - no strings attached - billions of dollars to all kinds of nonprofits. Finally, sometime this year she will share a formal application form. So, look out for it."

Doug –

"Grants are obviously important. We need to compare that to what we have said in our strategic plan and see where it comes out in our priorities. It may very well be on top."

Patt –

"These classes are free <https://www.nonprofitready.org/grant-writing-classes>"

Caleb –

Goals for region regarding grants (will review alongside Strategic Plan and Pacific Region Work Plan template and return to board with more information):

- 1) Enhance access to grant writing skill building opportunities and resources – with focus on early capacity building stages.
- 2) Identify opportunities for collaborative funding by using broad-reaching partnerships and networks (like NACD) as vehicles.

4:20 Succession Planning & Next-Generation Involvement – Board Leadership – Tom Wehri, Michael Aguon, Mae Nakahata, & Terri Preeg-Riggsby (Tabled for Annual Meeting)

4:45 Annual Meeting:

- Region Meeting 02/12 @ 1pm
- Resolution Hearings 02/13 @ 2:45pm
- Meeting OWL tentatively reserved (another region's request may take precedence to accommodate maternity needs)

Caleb – Elections will be taking place at the Annual Meeting (during the Pacific Region Meeting) in February. Please reach out to me and/or our region board leadership (listed above) if you have any questions on elections or furthering your involvement in NACD regional or national activities. Please encourage others in your states to also participate in our network!

4:50 Forestry Committee Coordination – Doug Rushton, Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Doug – Considering the potential for regional NACD meetings to be platform for Forestry RPG to engage NACD Members. Hosting an RPG or Committee meeting in conjunction with regional meetings could render more involvement and input from our already busy members.

Terri – Expressed interest in the possibility for other RPGs/Committees to periodically update/visit with regions to assure continuous involvement.

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Doug – Would like to pilot Forestry RPG update w/ Pac. Region meeting and expand from there if results are good.

Tom – Expressed importance of Pacific Region involvement in ALL RPG's or committees.

Michael Crowder – Kim (NACD President Elect) has intention of assuring representation of all regions in all committees.

Tom – Those who want to be committee and RPG representatives can step forward through Pac. Region platform, and they don't need to come from NACD leadership roles. They must be active in engaging NACD leadership to express interest in committee work.

Doug – With support of board leadership, will plan to pilot Forestry RPG update as a part of Pac. Region meeting to determine feasibility and increase regional engagement.

5:00 Closing & Adjournment