

USDA NRCS Caribbean Area
U.S. Virgin Islands State Technical Committee Meeting (STCM)

Agenda

DATE: September 24, 2024

TIME: 9:00am – 12pm

LOCATION: UVI Research and Technology Park Corporation ([Link](#))

VIRTUAL OPTION: [Join meeting](#) / Meeting ID: 299 612 739 46 /

Passcode: m6uUDf

PHONE: 1-202-650-0123 / Phone conference ID: 400 475 103#

Purpose: In accordance with 7 CFR Part 610, Subpart C, NRCS has established a technical committee in each state to assist in making recommendations relating to the implementation and technical aspects of natural resource conservation activities and programs.

Meeting Facilitator: ***Mario Rodriguez***

Invitees: Agricultural producers, owners and operators of nonindustrial private forest land, and other professionals who represent a variety of interests and disciplines in the soil, water, wetlands, plant, and wildlife sciences.

Policy: Title 440 – [Programs Manuals Part 501 - USDA Conservation Program Delivery Subpart C - State Technical Committees](#)

1. **Director's Welcome – *Mario Rodriguez***
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Introduction to STCM – *Mario Rodriguez***
4. **Open Business**
 - a) NRCS Financial Assistance Recap – *Mario Rodriguez*
 - a) NRCS Engineering Projects updates – *Mario Rodriguez*
 - b) Equity Subcommittee updates – *Cristhian Muñoz*
 - c) Wildlife, Wetlands & Forests Subcommittee updates – *Iván Llerandi & Sean Kelly*
 - d) Caribbean Area GARC WRE – *Javier Cruz*

Responsibilities of State Technical Committees

- A. Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages.
- B. Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs.
- C. Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications.
- D. Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data.
- E. Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally.
- F. Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups.
- G. Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs.



5. New Business – *Mario Rodriguez*

- a) USVI Department of Agriculture – Identifying high priority production areas & collaboration opportunities – *Commissioner Louis Petersen*
- b) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - National Wildlife Refuges System updates – *Silmarie Padrón*
 - Caribbean Ecological Sciences Field Office updates – *Lourdes Mena*
- c) USDA Caribbean Climate Hub updates – *Dr. William Gould*
- d) *Arte Suelo Ser* – Agreement project updates & collaboration opportunities – *Zoelie Ocasio*
- e) Soil Health and Edge-of-Field Monitoring - *Dr. Mario Flores Mangual*
- f) State Agencies Identified Priorities for 2025 – *Open Discussion*

6. Adjournment