



USDA NRCS Caribbean Area Puerto Rico State Technical Committee Meeting (STCM)

Agenda

DATE: December 11, 2024

TIME: 9:00am – 12:00pm

LOCATION: University of Puerto Rico, Arecibo Campus, Learning Commons Center ([Link](#))

VIRTUAL OPTION: [Join meeting](#) / Meeting ID: 299 189 597 154 / Passcode: mQ96j5Qc

PHONE: +1 202-650-0123 / Phone conference ID: 538 138 620#

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 & Introduction to STCM - *Ricardo Colón***
2. **Roll Call – *Némesis Ortiz***
3. **Recap & Initial Survey Results Discussion – *Némesis Ortiz & Ricardo Colón***
4. **Open Business – *Mario Rodriguez***
 - a) NRCS Financial Programs Update – *Ricardo Colón*
 - b) Priority Watersheds Discussion – *Yilia Bauçage Bou*
 - c) Caribbean Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) for Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) – *Javier Cruz / Action Item*
 - d) Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) FY24 projects & priorities, timeline and new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) - *Mario Rodriguez / Action Item*
 - e) Open discussion
 - f) Schedule next meeting (March 2025)
5. **Adjournment**

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.