

# Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee Business Meeting

Monday, March 8, 2:00 P.M. — 4:00 P.M. ET |

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## Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee Leadership

<b>Chair:</b>	Hon. Craig Pedersen, Supervisor, Kings County, Calif.
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Hon. Alex Barnett, County Judge, Harrison County, Ky.
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Hon. Bob Fox, Commissioner Renville County, Minn.
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Hon. Gene Harper, County Administration, Marion County, S.C.
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Hon. Melissa McKinlay, Commissioner Palm Beach County, Fla.
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Hon. Luis Sanchez, Commissioner, Midland County, Texas
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Hon. James Schmidt, Commissioner, Lincoln County, S.D.

## Meeting Agenda

2:00 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. ET

### **Call to Order and Welcome**

- **Hon. Craig Pedersen**, Supervisor, Kings County, Calif.

2:15 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. ET

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture – Office of Intergovernmental Affairs**

*As we welcome in a new Administration, we are excited to announce that one of our own – former Coconino County Supervisor, Liz Archuleta – has been appointed as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. Liz will join NACo's Agriculture and Rural Affairs Steering Committee to discuss her new role and how counties are able to connect with the U.S. Department of Agriculture*

- **Liz Archuleta**, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture

2:30 P.M. – 2:50 P.M. ET

### **Protecting our Providers: COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in American Agriculture**

*The COVID-19 pandemic has presented considerable challenges to our nation's food supply system. Despite these challenges, our nation's agricultural industry has continued to produce, process, package and distribute food and goods to households everywhere. As these challenges remain, vaccine distribution will play a key role in preventing additional or future strains on our nation's food supply system. This session will examine the priorities and resources aimed at protecting American agriculture from the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- **Dr. Sara Bleich**, Senior Advisor on COVID-19, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

2:50 P.M. – 3:10 PM ET

### **Climate-Smart Agriculture: Impacts and Implications of Climate Change on American Farmers and Ranchers**

*U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has identified “climate smart agriculture” as a key initiative for the agency under the Biden Administration. During the Obama Administration, Secretary Vilsack and the U.S. Department of Agriculture invested millions of dollars to help protect American farmers from the adverse impacts of climate change and simultaneously address the impact of production agriculture on the global climate. During this session, members will discuss these challenges and hear from USDA representatives about the future of “climate-smart agriculture.”*

- **Robert Bonnie**, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy and Senior Advisor on Climate, U.S. Department of Agriculture

3:10 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. ET

#### **Renewed Rural Development**

*USDA’s Rural Development subagency oversees a \$216 billion portfolio of grants and loans aimed at bolstering economic development efforts in rural communities across America. In 2017, the Trump Administration realigned the Rural Development subagency, including removing the Senate-confirmed Undersecretary position, and eliminated the White House Rural Council. With NACo’s help, the Undersecretary position has been codified under the 2018 Farm Bill and look to the Biden Administration to appoint this critical position for Senate confirmation. This session will discuss the future of the Rural Development subagency under the Biden Administration and what to expect in interagency collaboration on rural economic development.*

- **Justin Maxson**, Deputy Undersecretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture

3:30 P.M. – 3:50 P.M. ET

#### **Cultivating a Global Market**

*As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture in the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, Congressman Jim Costa (D-CA16) helps shape federal policy aimed at ensuring American Agriculture remains competitive across the global market. This session will highlight some of the efforts underway in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress to bolster opportunities for American farmers and the role counties can play in the local, domestic, and global food supply chain.*

- **Rep. Jim Costa** (D-CA16), Chair, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture, Committee on Agriculture, U.S. House of Representatives

3:50 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. ET

#### **Closing Statements**

- **Hon. Craig Pedersen**, Supervisor, Kings County, Calif.

4:00 P.M. ET

#### **Meeting Concludes**