

RURAL ACTION CAUCUS BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

May 18, 2022 | 8 AM–10 AM AST | Summit Hall 2, Lower Level, Egan Convention Center

LEADERSHIP

Chair:	Hon. Greg Puckett, <i>Commissioner</i> , Mercer County, W. Va.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Virginia Bass, <i>Supervisor</i> , Humboldt County, Calif.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Tarryl Clark, <i>Commissioner</i> , Stearns County, Minn.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Melissa Cribbins, <i>Commissioner</i> , Coos County, Ore.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Stephanie Davis, <i>County Judge</i> , Comanche County, Texas
Vice Chair:	Hon. Lena Fowler, <i>Supervisor</i> , Coconino County, Ariz.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Debra Lucero, <i>Supervisor</i> , Butte County, Calif.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Eugene Olivier, <i>Councilman</i> , Iberia Parish, La.
Vice Chair:	Hon. John Peters, <i>Supervisor</i> , Mono County, Calif.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Robert Post, <i>Commissioner</i> , Banner County, Neb.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Vance Stuehrenberg, <i>Commissioner</i> , Blue Earth County, Minn.
Vice Chair:	Hon. Orlando Trainer, <i>Supervisor</i> , Oktibbeha County, Miss.

AGENDA

8:00 AM: Opening Remarks & Pledge of Allegiance

- Hon. Greg Puckett, *Chair*, NACo Rural Action Caucus; *Commissioner*, Mercer County, W.Va.

8:10 AM: Intergovernmental Partnerships in Alaska: Update from the Denali Commission

The Denali Commission is an independent federal agency that provides critical utilities, infrastructure and economic support throughout Alaska through increased inter-agency cooperation. Learn more from commission officials about how the body works to support Alaska's remote communities.

- Garrett Boyle, *Federal Co-Chair*, U.S. Denali Commission

8:25 AM: Rural Engagement in the Biden Administration: Update from the White House

Hear directly from a White House senior official about what the Biden Administration is doing across departments and agencies to ensure Rural America benefits from federal investments made over the past year, including through the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

- Lukas McGowan, *Senior Advisor*, The White House

8:35 AM: Resources for Rural Veterans: Update from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Rural veterans are among some of the nation's most vulnerable populations. Hear directly from the VA on work the agency is doing for rural veterans.

- Raphael Chavez-Fernandez, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

8:45 AM: Applying for Federal Transportation Grants: Technical Assistance Session with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)

The majority of funding opportunities for local governments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) require competing for federal grant funds. Interact directly with USDOT officials to learn how to successfully apply for the nearly \$100 billion in BIL USDOT county funding opportunities.

- Robert Hyman, AICP, Transportation Analyst, Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation Policy, USDOT

9:15 AM: Partnering for Rural Development: Navigating the Rural Network

Panelists will discuss the Rural Network, a coalition of advocacy organizations who focus on the Rural Development title of the Farm Bill. Learn more about how NACo is working with partners, like the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), to ensure local priorities are addressed in the 2023 Farm Bill.

- Aaliyah Nedd, Associate Legislative Director – Agriculture and Rural Affairs, NACo
- Maranda Saling, Government Affairs and Policy Specialist, RCAP

9:30 AM: Livable Communities: Update from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

AARP will discuss the association's Livable Communities initiative aimed at transforming communities for the benefit of people of all ages through different solutions, such as walkable streets, age-friendly housing, transportation options and access to services.

- Teresa Holt, Alaska State Director, AARP

9:50 AM: Open Forum & Closing Remarks

- Open to all caucus members to reflect on the day or discuss other caucus business
- Hon. Greg Puckett, Chair, NACo Rural Action Caucus; Commissioner, Mercer County, W.Va.

10:00 AM: Meeting Concludes