

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC)  
Meeting**

**August 8, 2013  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT**

**Teleconference Meeting  
Call-in: 1-866-299-3188/5644700#**

**SUMMARY**

**Introductions and Roll Call**

*Sarah Bittleman, Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator, EPA*

Ms. Sarah Bittleman (EPA Agricultural Counselor) called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed the participants, including the new Committee members: Mr. Charles Bowling (Bowling Agri-Service, Inc.), Mr. Patrick Johnson (Cypress Brake Planting Company), Mr. Philip Korson (Cherry Marketing Institute), Mr. Paul Martin (Spear Six Ranch), Dr. Anusuya Rangarajan (Cornell University), and Mr. Donn Teske (Donn Teske Farm). Ms. Kendra Carter (Office of the Administrator [AO], EPA) called the roll, and FRRCC members introduced themselves. A list of meeting participants is attached to this summary.

Ms. Bittleman explained that there was a full agenda of discussion topics for the meeting. A priority issue is to ensure that the FRRCC members have access to the agricultural advisor contact list for the EPA regions as well as EPA program office staff involved in agriculture issues. Ms. Bittleman reviewed the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) rules and regulations, which include a provision that all conversations concerning FACA-related issues must be recorded and made available to the public. Ms. Bittleman acknowledged that the lack of an official Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the FRRCC is a challenge, and a replacement is being sought.

Dr. Steven Balling, FRRCC Chair, expressed his appreciation to Ms. Bittleman for her efforts and said that he was pleased that so many FRRCC members were present.

She stated that all comments made will be part of the meeting record, and the teleconference summary will be posted on the FRRCC website once it is approved by the FRRCC Chair.

**Introduction of EPA Regional Agricultural Advisors**

*Sarah Bittleman, Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator, EPA*

Ms. Bittleman noted that each EPA region has an Agricultural Advisor and their contact information was provided to the FRRCC members in advance of the meeting. Dr. Janis McFarland (Syngenta Crop Protection) requested that the contact information be published on the FRRCC website as well. The Agricultural Advisors for each EPA region then introduced themselves as follows:

**Region 1**, serving Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont:  
Ms. Andrea Szylyvian, Office of Environmental Stewardship.

**Region 2**, serving New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands: Ms. Kristina Heinemann, Watershed Management Branch, Clean Water Division.

**Region 3**, serving Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia: Ms. Kelly Shenk, Water Protection Division.

**Region 4**, serving Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee: Ms. Shea Jones-Johnson, Office of the Regional Administrator.

**Region 5**, serving Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin: Mr. Tom Davenport, Water Division.

**Region 6**, serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas: Mr. Tom Ruiz, Special Senior Advisor for the Regional Administrator, on behalf of Mr. Eugene Thilsted.

**Region 7**, serving Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska: Mr. Damon Frizzell.

**Region 8**, serving Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming: Ms. Rebecca Perrin, Office of the Regional Administrator.

**Region 9**, serving Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and the Pacific Islands: Mr. Kerry Drake, Associate Director of the Air Division.

**Region 10**, serving Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington: Mr. Nick Peak, Capital Coordinator, filling in for Agricultural Advisor duties.

Ms. Bittleman reiterated that the Agricultural Advisors represent the points of contact for regional agriculture questions. She added that questions also can be directed to her.

#### **Introduction of EPA Program Office Agriculture-Related Staff**

*Sarah Bittleman, Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator, EPA*

Ms. Bittleman commented that the program office agricultural staff serve at EPA headquarters or laboratories and specialize in agricultural issues. The agriculture-related staff for the EPA program offices then introduced themselves as follows:

**Office of Air and Radiation (OAR):** Ms. Robin Dunkins, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

**Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP):** Ms. Jean Gallarin on behalf of Mr. Bill Jordan, Office of Pesticide Programs.

**Office of Water (OW):** Ms. Lynda Hall, Nonpoint Source Control Branch Chief, Ms. Roberta Parry and Ms. Katie Flahive, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds; Mr. Jeff Potent, Office of Wastewater Management.

**Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER):** Mr. Matt Straus, Advisor to the Assistant Administrator, and Mr. Richard Mattick, Agriculture Liaison.

**Office of Research and Development (ORD):** Dr. Anne Rea, Associate National Program Director for Nitrogen Research.

**Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA):** Mr. Joe Tice, Deputy Director of the Water Enforcement Division.

Ms. Bittleman thanked the EPA program office staff for participating in the teleconference. She reminded everyone to mute their telephones when not speaking to reduce background noise.

### **EPA Follow Up on Committee Recommendations From the 2011 Report**

*Sarah Bittleman, Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator, EPA*

Ms. Bittleman said that EPA should develop responses to the recommendations posed in the 2011 report. She mentioned that several topics already are being addressed, and the discussion should include those efforts as well as suggestions on priority actions. Ms. Bittleman read each recommendation and solicited comments.

*Recommendation: Any nutrient criteria proposed by EPA should be science based with a clear cause-effect relationship.*

Ms. Dana Thomas (OW, EPA) initiated the discussion with a conversation about the science-based information that already has been collected and how it is being used. By authority of Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), EPA recommends numeric values that the states can propose and adopt into water quality standards. The recommended numeric values reflect the latest scientific knowledge and the guidance is peer reviewed; EPA is committed to deriving and recommending values based on sound science. The Science Advisory Board (SAB) has reviewed evidence twice in the past 4 years. The water quality standards criteria adopted by the states under 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 131-11 also require sound science. Water quality standards must be adopted to protect the designated use; these criteria must be based on sound scientific rationale.

Ms. Thomas commented that the cause and effect of excess nutrients on waterways is well established. The OW website ([www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution](http://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution)) has been revised to provide the information to the public in a clearer format. The recommendations were last updated 10 years ago, and next year the plan is to provide additional training to the regions and states on how to derive nutrient criteria using the latest scientific information.

Dr. Rea added that all six of ORD's national research programs are designed around the needs of the program and regional offices. Projects are designed based on the decisions that need to be informed and long-term effects. ORD provides technical support and documentation for model development and decision support tools for future areas of research.

Ms. Bittleman thanked Ms. Thomas and Dr. Rea for their helpful comments. She proposed an opportunity for states and researchers to consider how to interface their data and research projects with those of EPA. Improved sharing of information would be a beneficial and popular effort.

A participant noted that agriculture is local, and people are interested in what is happening in their region or farm. The agricultural community appreciates EPA's efforts to address their local concerns and explain the issues. Communication is very important.

Mr. Thomas McDonald (JBS Five Rivers Cattle Feeding) noted that there are various ways that researchers can integrate their work into EPA's research efforts. Continuous opportunities for collaborative research exist. Ms. Thomas agreed that agricultural issues are regional in nature, and EPA's regional technical assistance groups include numerous stakeholders. She suggested that participants contact her if they are interested in contacting their regional nutrient coordinator.

Dr. McFarland requested an update on EPA's plans for including suspended and imbedded sediments in the 2006 framework for developing criteria. Ms. Thomas and Dr. Rea responded that EPA currently is not doing any work in that area. Ms. Bittleman commented that she would investigate this question further.

Dr. Larry Sanders (Oklahoma State University) encouraged EPA to consider integrating state data, with the caution that criteria must be developed to ensure that the data were collected properly and verify that they are accurate.

*Recommendation: EPA should have a coordinated public engagement plan.*

Ms. Bittleman said that EPA is in the process of developing a public engagement plan in response to this very good suggestion. She has instituted weekly telephone calls with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to consult about issues of importance to the two agencies. As part of a broader public engagement plan, Ms. Bittleman also schedules monthly teleconferences with various interest groups, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Turkey Federation, and National Broiler Council as well as major commodity groups for corn, wheat, soybeans and rice. Monthly calls also have been initiated with specialty crop stakeholders and industry companies (e.g., Syngenta, Croplife, DuPont). Ms. Bittleman explained that she contacts the agricultural state directors every few months and is in regular discussion with EPA offices. The calls last for 30 to 60 minutes. EPA is working to build relationships with the agricultural community on a continual basis rather than reach out when issues arise. She stressed that EPA's efforts are science-based and require long-term thought, discussion and data collection.

Dr. Balling commended Ms. Bittleman on the outreach effort and asked if the teleconferences were reasonably well attended. She replied that the attendance varied depending on the season and congressional calendar, but in general, attendance was high. In response to a question about performing outreach efforts between the regional agriculture advisors and stakeholder groups, Ms. Bittleman said that many regions hold stakeholder meetings and those efforts are being encouraged.

Mr. Frizzell stated that Region 7 has been proactive in conducting stakeholder meetings for several years. Farm Bureau representatives, state agriculture departments, environmental department leaders, beef producers and feedlot owners are among the stakeholders included in these meetings. A recent subject for discussion was concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) enforcement activities. Mr. Frizzell underscored the importance of regular communication with agricultural stakeholders.

*Recommendation: Each region should have a designated agricultural liaison.*

Ms. Bittleman reiterated that regional agricultural liaisons have been designated.

*Recommendation: EPA guidelines on preparation of economic analysis should be followed.*

Mr. Al McGartland, Director of the National Center for Environmental Economics (NCEE, AO, EPA), presented a brief summary of EPA's development and application of economic guidelines. EPA considers the economics of science and develops guidelines to govern the conduct of economics research. Rather than updating the entire guidelines document, the Center revises specific topics that need updating on a regular basis, which then get peer reviewed by the SAB. The guidelines are intended primarily for the internal EPA audience. NCEE supports the guidelines with training classes to help Agency economists address challenges and cutting-edge issues, such as employment impacts of regulation, behavioral economics, and ecosystem services and trading. Mr. McGartland commented that the NCEE guidelines sometimes surpass EPA's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements.

Several topics related to the guidelines include a total maximum daily load (TMDL) benefit analysis on the Chesapeake Bay, which is being conducted in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). A collaboration with the OW is investigating statutory criteria for decision makers related to the CWA and Clean Air Act (CAA). Mr. McGartland emphasized the importance of transparency in benefit-cost analysis even when the analyses legally cannot be used for decision-making purposes. He noted that other agencies and institutions have used the guidelines to engage in discussions with EPA. For example, North Carolina State University and the Department of the Interior have partnered to study the effect of pollution on ecosystem services and consider actions to reduce pollution.

In response to a question, Mr. McGartland stated that it will be important to determine how the environmental justice implications of regulatory options should be assessed. Technical guidelines regarding the use of environmental justice in rulemaking have been added to the guidelines document. Mr. McGartland agreed to send the environmental justice hyperlink to Ms. Bittleman for dissemination to FRRCC members.

Mr. George Boggs (Whatcom Conservation District) asked to what extent economic considerations constrain regional or state operations. Mr. McGartland replied that EPA sets the minimum regulations, and states can do more to achieve higher goals (e.g., to achieve ambient air quality standards). He added that the experience and use of economics varies among states, and it can be difficult to apply national estimates and models to local situations.

Ms. Bittleman mentioned that the authorizing legislation such as the CAA dictates the ability to consider economics in some instances. A participant noted that the CAA does not permit cost to be considered in setting standards designed to protect public health (e.g., primary pollutants). Benefit-cost analyses can be considered in secondary standards (e.g., secondary pollutants). Mr. McGartland noted that the Agency performs the benefit-cost analysis for the primary standard and it is made available to the public, even though the Administrator does not base the decision on the data. Ms. Bittleman commented that EPA at times is constrained by the legislation that it is implementing. Mr. Drake pointed out that states can consider costs when they are developing regulations and plans to meet the air quality standards.

*Recommendation: EPA should work proactively with agriculture and should support certainty programs.*

Ms. Bittleman commented that EPA's Deputy Administrator Mr. Bob Perciasepe and USDA's Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan wrote a letter about certainty that was distributed to the state agricultural directors. EPA is committed to certainty programs and is engaging relevant stakeholders in those conversations.

*Recommendation: EPA should leverage all available resources including state and federal conservation programs, 319 funding, USDA programs, State Revolving Loan funds, private foundations, etc.*

Ms. Hall, National Program Manager of the Section 319 program, said that the important issue is to consider how to effectively focus the most funding to deliver water quality results through agricultural conservation. More work remains to be accomplished to fulfill the spirit of the recommendation. The limited budgetary climate, resulting in less funding for EPA programs, increases the importance of leveraging partnerships to accomplish important efforts. Section 319 of the CWA is focused on conservation practices for watershed projects. The grant guidelines for Section 319 of the CWA provisions were revised to increase the opportunities to leverage partnerships, such as collaborating with USDA to focus on watershed improvements. The 319 grant guidelines require that 50 percent of funds be directed to watershed projects, many of which include agricultural conservation projects. An incentive

was added for states to leverage additional funds for watershed projects. The grant guideline changes go into effect in fiscal year (FY) 2014.

Ms. Hall stated that the revisions provide an opportunity to work more closely with USDA to focus the Department's conservation funding to benefit water quality in watersheds. Several important USDA initiatives (e.g., Chesapeake Bay, Mississippi River Basin, National Water Quality Initiative) have been making good progress. EPA is interested in continuing and furthering these types of partnerships.

Mr. Boggs complemented EPA's efforts to leverage the Section 319 funding. He suggested identifying success stories and lessons learned that can be extrapolated to other states to embrace the positive aspects of successful projects. Efforts could be focused on strategic conservation.

Ms. Hall welcomed opportunities for future Committee conversations about highlighting progress to achieve watershed quality. Science has shown that the right efforts need to be focused in the right places, and there is room to expand successful partnerships.

Ms. Bittleman noted that each region is unique in its approach to different issues and uses different tools. She encouraged FACA members to identify individuals in their states or regions that might be interested in partnering with EPA to leverage these projects. Mr. Boggs volunteered to be part of those efforts.

*Recommendation: EPA should enable and provide resources for a multi-entity, multidisciplinary approach to quantifying the water quality benefits from agricultural practices.*

Ms. Bittleman said that EPA is collecting positive news stories about situations where the agricultural community is collaborating with a conservation district, USDA, or EPA or working on its own to quantify water quality benefits in a watershed area. Often, the EPA Administrator travels to places to address problems; the Agency would like to send the Administrator to highlight multidisciplinary efforts that successfully improved watershed health and clean air. Ms. Bittleman solicited specific examples from Committee members of successful projects.

Ms. Bittleman concluded by saying that the recommendations were astute. EPA has made progress already on several of them, but work remains. Dr. Balling commented that it would be helpful to discuss the recommendations further in a day-long, face-to-face meeting where more could be accomplished. Ms. Bittleman agreed that although it is not ideal to conduct meetings via teleconference, doing so is preferable to waiting an extended period for funding to become available for a face-to-face meeting. She said that the next meeting will incorporate better technology to identify attendees and allow participants to follow the conversation.

Dr. McFarland agreed that it would be useful to discuss additional areas where multiple stakeholders could be leveraged to improve ecosystems. For example, including FRRCC experts in land management, biodiversity and pollinators as well as the Iowa Farm Bureau and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) will provide a platform for a well-rounded and informed discussion. Topics of interest include which filtration compounds that reduce soil water runoff are pollinator friendly and how research projects can be linked to incorporate strong science.

#### **Committee Input on Potential Future Briefings to the FACA**

*Sarah Bittleman, Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator, EPA*

Ms. Bittleman identified one topic for a future FRRCC briefing: consider more deeply how all available resources can be leveraged and how to apply a multidisciplinary approach to quantify water quality.

Dr. Sanders suggested that the Committee focus on EPA's role in hydraulic fracturing (fracking), which affects agriculture as well as rural communities.

**EPA Presentations on a Series of Issues That Might Be of Interest to the FACA and for Which Assistance Is Needed**

*Sarah Bittleman, Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator, EPA*

Ms. Bittleman stated that the purpose of the presentations is to stimulate thought and discussion.

*National Air Emissions Monitoring Study (NAEMS) Next Step—Robin Dunkins, OA, EPA*

Ms. Dunkins leads the natural resources group that is responsible for CAFO-related air quality topics. She explained that NAEMS was funded and conducted by industry partners as part of a voluntary agreement led by OECA to address concerns and improve air emission estimates. Individual growers as well as large dairy, swine and egg corporations participated in and funded the study. Data collection efforts were initiated in 2007, to gather information on emissions and pollutants, including particulate matter (PM), hydrogen sulfide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ammonia.

Two years of data available from 25 farm sites located across the country were analyzed to develop emission estimating methodology. Other stakeholder groups, including animal industries, state and local air quality agencies, and local advocate organizations have expressed interest in participating in the process. In response to these requests, the SAB reviewed the draft emission estimating methodology. The plan is to solicit feedback to finalize the methodology and then develop additional methods for other animal sectors.

The SAB formed a CAFO panel that was comprised of nationally recognized experts in feeding operation and emissions with broad expertise. The panel provided recommendations to EPA in 2012, and included an acknowledgement that EPA might need to apply a statistical approach to assess emissions, but stressed that the Agency needs to address the National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) recommendation to develop a process-based model to assess air emissions from animal industries. Comments were raised on the statistical methods and concerns that additional data are needed. It was suggested that EPA not apply current versions of the model outside of the covered dataset. EPA is investigating options to address the SAB's recommendations in coordination with the Agency's chief statistician and ORD scientists, including a pursuit of additional datasets that can be used to supplement the NAEMS data.

Ms. Dunkins offered to send the website address to Ms. Bittleman for dissemination to FRRCC members.

Mr. Boggs asked for clarification of the FRRCC's role in the NAEMS. Ms. Dunkins responded that the Committee can play a role in the discussion needed about implementing the newly defined measures.

Dr. McFarland expressed interest in the operational process that relied on volunteers providing resources for the work. She noted that the model could be applied to other areas as well.

Mr. Martin said that he would appreciate being kept informed as the implementation efforts proceed.

Ms. Bittleman noted for the record that the FRRCC was interested in discussing the NAEMS further at a future meeting.

*OW Animal Agriculture Strategy Workgroup—Jeff Potent, OW, EPA*

Mr. Potent stated that the workgroup was formed in response to the recommendation that EPA needs to work proactively with agriculture. The OW is expanding opportunities for engagement and collaboration with the agricultural community, including trade groups and other stakeholders, to identify solutions together. Mr. Potent indicated that he would like to discuss how to move forward to engage in partnerships with multiple sectors, including dairy, poultry, swine and beef.

In response to a question from Dr. Balling, Mr. Potent indicated that the workgroup is close to success and has been exploring initiatives in all sectors.

*Electronic–National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (E–NPDES)—John Dombrowski, OECA, EPA*

Mr. John Dombrowski said that EPA proposed a new E-NPDES reporting rule for public comments on July 30, 2013. The electronic reporting capability technologically modernizes the NPDES. Importantly, no new reporting requirements have been introduced; the purpose of the rule is to facilitate reporting efforts and improve the quality of the data.

The proposed rule covers all discharge monitoring reports (e.g., notice of intent to discharge, general permits, program reports related to CAFOs) that are sent to authorities, such as the states.

Mr. Dombrowski clarified that individual discharge monitoring report permits are not covered under the new rules due to structural program variability between the states.

The improved electronic process will benefit all parties, as applicants will receive a more expedient reply on their permit requests and costs will be reduced. After the rule is implemented, states will save \$29 million annually through reductions in full-time employees and other measures. The NPDES-regulated entities will benefit financially as well with an estimated \$1.2 million in annual savings.

The comment period closes on October 28, 2013, and the proposed rule will go into effect in late 2014 after a 1-year implementation period. EPA takes comments seriously because state partners are integral to the success of the initiative; if many comments are received, EPA will share the comments and related actions. The 1-year implementation period allows EPA to work with state partners to prepare for the change.

Mr. Dombrowski noted that the Committee members had received a fact sheet about the E-NPDES rule, and he encouraged everyone to review it. EPA is performing outreach efforts to ensure that relevant stakeholders are familiar with the rule.

Dr. Balling pointed out that projected savings of such projects often are not fully realized because of the additional staff required in the information technology department. Mr. Dombrowski acknowledged that the E-NPDES effort requires an upfront investment. EPA will be providing resources to states via grants and technical assistance as well as developing electronic reporting tools so that states do not absorb the cost of development and maintenance of the tools.

*Nitrogen and Co-Pollutant Research Roadmap—Ann Rea, ORD, EPA*

Dr. Rea stated that ORD modified its research portfolio from approximately 20 multi-year plans to six defined portfolios. Certain topics, such as nutrients and nitrogen, cut across several of the programs. Nitrogen and co-pollutants in the air also can result in deposition in lakes and streams, resulting in acidification. Many times nitrogen and phosphorus contribute to eutrophication in the water. Nitrogen

also affects sediment and carbon cycling. The roadmap is designed to integrate research across ORD in collaboration with OAR, OW and EPA regions. The goal is to design a cross-media, integrated, multidisciplinary approach to sustainably manage nitrogen and co-pollutants loading to air and water while reducing adverse impacts on human and environmental health. The roadmap identifies major focus areas for a common research portfolio, opportunities for integration across the Agency, gaps in the research that are preventing regulatory and non-regulatory decisions from being made, and recommendations for future research. Currently, ORD is conducting a gap analysis of the research in ORD, OW, OAR and EPA regions. When gaps are identified, ORD identifies actions to be taken and who can address the gap, including external collaborators such as USDA or NOAA. The ultimate goal is to provide sound science that informs decisions across the Agency.

Ms. Bittleman emphasized that EPA is endeavoring to identify related research areas across the Agency to reduce “stovepiping” and ensure that research is being conducted efficiently. For example, nutrients that typically are water pollutants also can affect the air. It is important to be aware of research efforts on a holistic level across all media. Dr. Rea added that EPA is encouraging staff from different program offices to work together to develop policies that will decrease nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in watersheds.

Dr. McFarland commended ORD for the efforts and progress in integrating research across the Agency. She suggested including key milestones and metrics within the roadmap as well as how the FRRCC can provide assistance. Dr. Rea responded that a timeline has not yet been discussed but will be considered in the future.

### **How to Work Better Moving Forward**

*Sarah Bittleman, Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator, EPA*

Ms. Bittleman commented that the presentations were designed to inform the FRRCC’s future briefings. She cautioned that no decisions could be made until a DFO has been secured, which is expected to occur within a month or two. In response to a question, Ms. Bittleman explained that the delay has been in identifying an individual with the right background, time and interest to serve as the DFO.

She noted that financial restraints preclude in-person meetings at this time, but teleconferences are encouraged to ensure that the next face-to-face meeting is focused and productive. Dr. Balling commented on the difficulty of holding conversations over the telephone because many attendees stay muted, but it is important to continue discussing in more detail potential future actions. Dr. Richard Bonanno (University of Massachusetts) mentioned that videoconferences are preferable to teleconferences because they are more dynamic and participation is easier. Dr. Sanders agreed that using Adobe® Connect would be an improvement, and he requested that materials to be reviewed by the Committee members prior to the call be distributed well in advance. Ms. Bittleman responded that EPA has the technology to conduct videoconferences and it will be considered for the next FRRCC meeting.

Mr. Martin opined that the four critical issues on the agenda (NAEMS, OW Animal Agriculture Strategy Workgroup, E-NPDES, and Nitrogen and Co-Pollutant Research Roadmap) should be discussed further. He suggested that each issue be discussed on a separate call. One attendee suggested that smaller workgroups could be formed to look into the issues further.

Another participant proposed adding to the list of discussion topics the impact of climate change on agriculture and potential actions. Ms. Bittleman agreed that it was an important topic.

## **Public Comments**

Ms. Bittleman called for public comments.

Mr. David Petty (Iowa River Ranch) told Ms. Bittleman that the FRRCC members are willing to tackle and follow through with big projects. He urged EPA to enlist Committee member assistance.

Mr. Boggs thanked the presenters for the thorough and provocative presentations. He proposed that the group consider the scope and nature of future projects for topics such as ocean acidification, climate change and resource allocation. Ms. Bittleman agreed that a project suggestion template would be useful to compare potential efforts, including the importance to EPA and agricultural groups. Ms. Carter agreed to draft the template.

Ms. Bittleman mentioned that the next FRRCC meeting will be scheduled in October 2013. By that time, a DFO should be appointed and better technology will be used for the meeting.

## **Adjournment**

Ms. Bittleman expressed her appreciation to the Committee members, EPA staff and participants for their time and feedback. Dr. Balling also thanked the attendees for their participation. Ms. Bittleman adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. EDT.

## **Action Items**

- ✧ Ms. Bittleman will investigate the question on current research addressing suspended and imbedded sediments.
- ✧ Mr. McGartland will send the NCEE environmental justice hyperlink to Ms. Bittleman for dissemination to the Committee members.
- ✧ Ms. Dunkins will send the NAEMS website address to Ms. Bittleman for dissemination to the Committee members.
- ✧ Materials to be reviewed by the Committee members prior to the call will be distributed well in advance of the meeting.
- ✧ Ms. Carter will draft a project suggestion template and disseminate it to the Committee members for review.
- ✧ Ms. Bittleman will distribute to Committee members a list of potential future discussion topics generated during the meeting.

**Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC)  
August 8, 2013 Teleconference Meeting Participants**

**Committee Chair:**

**Steven S. Balling, Ph.D.**  
Del Monte Foods  
Walnut Creek, CA

**Committee Vice-Chair:**

**David D. Petty**  
Iowa River Ranch  
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**Members:**

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**Richard Bonanno, Ph.D.**  
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**Daniel Botts**  
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**Senator Michael "Mike" Brubaker**  
State Senate of Pennsylvania  
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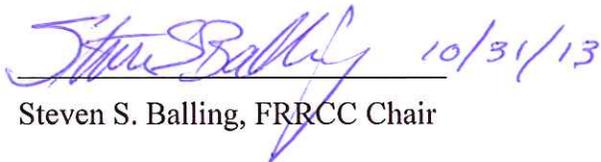
**Dana Thomas**  
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**Joe Tice**  
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Assurance

**Support Contractor:**

**Jennifer McCulley, Ph.D.**  
The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc.

I, Steven S. Balling, Chairman of the EPA Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC) certify the meeting minutes for August 8, 2013, are hereby detailed, contain a record of the persons present, and give an accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached, and copies of all reports received, issued, or approved by the advisory committee. My signature date complies with the 90-day due date after each meeting required by GSA Final Rule.

  
Steven S. Balling, FRRCC Chair