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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Advisory Committee (FRRCC) Meeting
November 15 - 16, 2021

FRRCC Website: www.epa.gov/faca/frrcc

Public Contact: frrcc@epa.gov

Media Contact: press@epa.gov



Introduction, Call to Order, Roll Call and Opening Remarks

William Thomas (Tom) McDonald, Chair, FRRCC

Venus Welch-White, FRRCC DFO, EPA

Written Statements:

To submit written statements pertaining to this committee meeting, email them to the Designated Federal Officer at FRRCC@epa.gov prior to 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on November 30, 2021.



Welcome Remarks

*Rod Snyder, Senior Agriculture Advisor
to the EPA Administrator*

FRRCC Charge Topics

A. Creating a Holistic Pesticide Program for the Future

B. Supporting Environmental Benchmarks with Interagency Partners

- Food Loss and Waste
- Water Quantity and Quality



Remarks from EPA

Office of Land & Emergency Management (OLEM)

*Carlton Waterhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator
for Land and Emergency Management*



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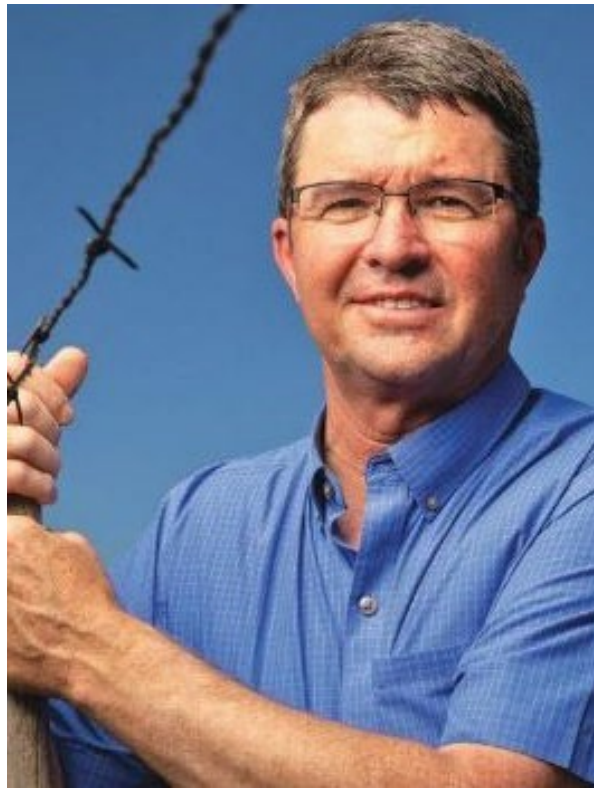
Public Contact: frrcc@epa.gov

Media Contact: press@epa.gov

Ad Hoc Workgroup on Food Loss and Waste



Jeff Witte



Jimmy Wayne Kinder



Emily Broad Leib



Bill Couser

FRRCC Food Loss & Waste Working Group Committee Members



David Graybill

Graciela Ramirez

Amy Wolfe

Davie Stephens

FRRCC Food Loss & Waste Working Group Committee Members



Barry Berg



Beth Sauerhaft



Matt Freund

Members not pictured:
Jamie Burr
Bill Pracht
Jay Olsen

FRRCC Food Loss & Waste Working Group Committee Members

The Problem

**80 Million Tons of food
is wasted each year in
the U.S.**

FRRCC Food Loss & Waste Working Group



Defining Food Loss & Food Waste

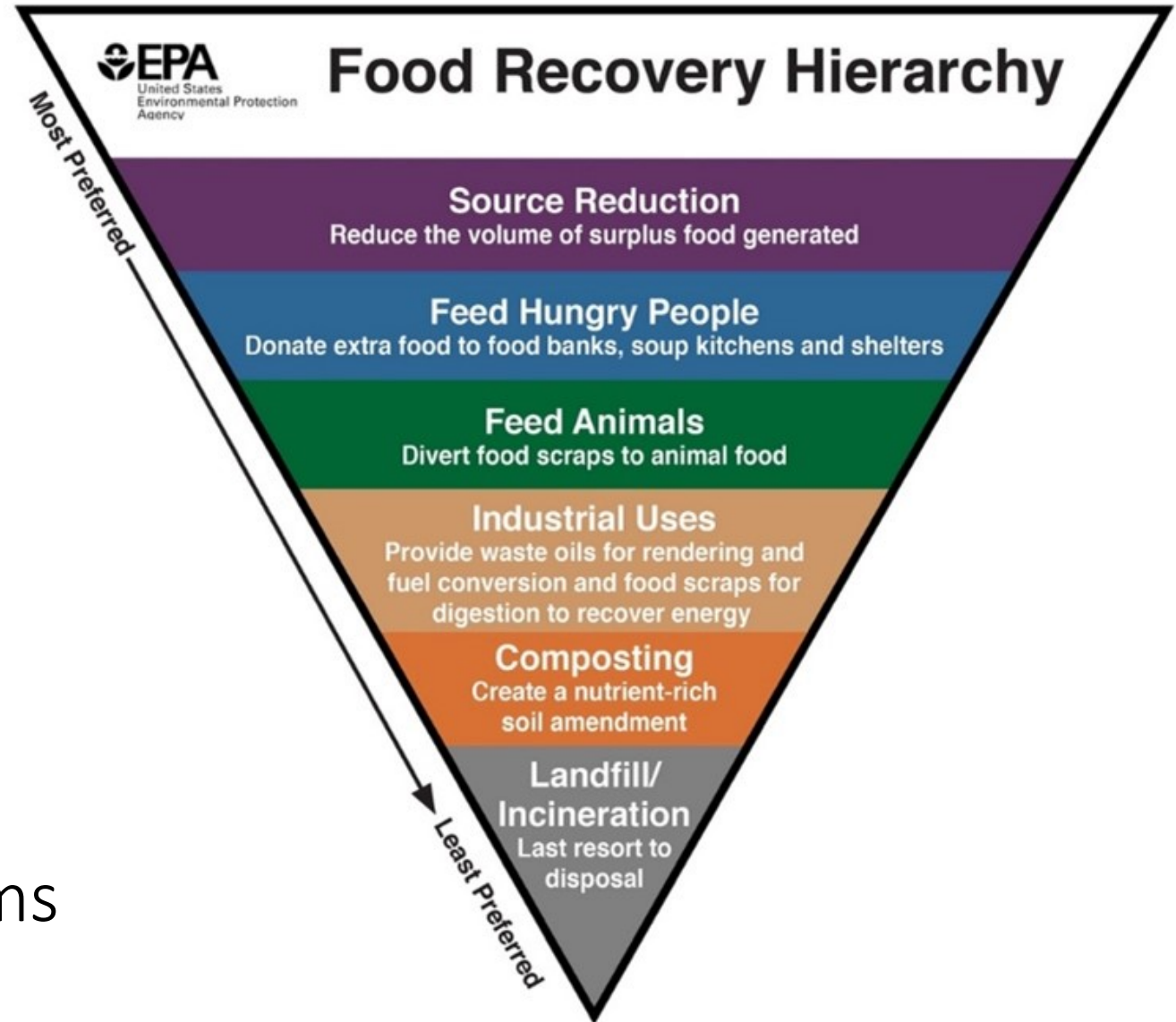
Agricultural Food Loss: The loss of agricultural products from the supply chain because such products are unsafe, undesirable, or unmarketable due to farming practices, manufacturing technology, marketability and/or profitability.

Agricultural Food Waste: Agricultural products produced for human consumption which have nutritional value and are marketable but are discarded to a food waste destination such as a landfill and become a cost to society and/or the environment.

Observations & Insights

The EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy

- Magnitude of the problem
- Liability for food donors
- Date labeling
- Logistics
- Permitting rules
- Limited funding and programs



Recommendations

Cross sector partnerships

- Independent actions of EPA
- Collaboration with federal agencies
- Additional funding
- Building awareness and technical assistance.



Part A: EPA Actions

A1. EPA should adopt formal definitions of Agricultural Food Loss and Waste to guide future policymakers, farmers, ranchers, and other decision makers.

A2. EPA should have dedicated funding for its existing waste management departments for food waste management work.

A3. EPA should offer states and waste management operations guidance on creating waste management plans that call for separating and diverting food waste from landfills, as it does for other materials.

A4. EPA should look into streamlining pesticide approvals to increase the number of tools farmers have to produce high-quality food in a way that is economical and reduces food waste at the source.

Part B: Cross-Government Collaboration

B1. EPA should help ensure confusion over food safety rules do not pose a barrier to donation of safe surplus foods. To do this, EPA should promote and encourage FDA to adopt food safety guidance for food donation similar to the draft guidance recently published by USDA.

B2. EPA should work with USDA and FDA to aid those agencies in creating more cohesive and easily understandable regulations for date labeling.

B3. EPA should work with USDA to analyze how crop insurance policy impacts food waste.

B4. EPA should help federal agencies model food recovery practices by creating a system to track food recovery and donation across agencies, in keeping with the Federal Food Donation Act of 2008.

Part C: Financing

C1. EPA should increase food waste funding and incentives to farmers to support their infrastructure needs and incentivize food donation and recovery.

C2. EPA should direct funding to states and localities to support the development of proven policies that address food waste prevention and food recovery, and should support development of food donation and recovery infrastructure and technology in underserved areas.

C3. EPA should help support the development of upcycled foods and the markets for upcycled foods.

Part D: Awareness, Education, Technical Assistance, and Research

D1. EPA should continue to update existing educational materials and build upon them to create tailored resources for other audiences, in addition to supporting waste management capacity development.

D2. EPA should support food waste reduction, food recovery, and food waste education in schools, either on its own or in partnership with USDA or the U.S. Department of Education.

D3. EPA should provide education and guidance to states on state laws regarding feeding food scraps and surplus to animals and livestock.

D4. EPA should promote the development of state and local strategies to market and divert food waste by publishing and publicizing information about the relative costs of waste management strategies.

Part D: (Cont.)

D5. EPA should provide model language and assistance to states in best practices for developing permits for composting and anaerobic digestion.

D6. EPA should conduct or support research on the opportunities and tensions related to the nexus between food waste and food packaging, to provide better insight into the best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

D7. EPA should create guidance and offer technical assistance for state reporting of food waste.

D8. EPA should support research about food waste and ways to reduce it.

Next Steps

Committee discussion and voting on Food Loss & Waste charge topics.



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Remarks from
EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)
Jake Li, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs

Ad Hoc Workgroup on Pesticides

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup - Pesticides

Workgroup Members

- Lauren C. Lurkins, J.D.(Chair)
- Michael J. Aerts
- Don Brown
- Sharon Furches
- Jeffrey Gore, Ph.D.
- David Graybill
- Jimmy W. Kinder
- Gary Mahany
- Nicholas McCarthy
- Jesse McCurry
- William R. Pracht
- Charles R. Santerre, Ph.D.
- Stacy Wayne Smith
- Davie Shane Stephens
- Amy V. C. Wolfe, MPPA, CFRE
- James E. Zook

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup - Pesticides

Workgroup Charge:

Creating a Holistic Pesticide Program for the Future

Crop protection tools are vital to U.S. agriculture's ability to provide food, fiber and fuel to the U.S. and much of the world. Advancements and innovations in crop protection technology will allow U.S. farmers to gain efficiency and produce more agricultural products with less resources.

Charge Questions:

- How can EPA reduce barriers to bringing crop protection tools to market while at the same time protecting the environment, natural resources and human health, as well as safeguarding pollinators and endangered species?
- How can EPA improve consumer confidence and build trust with the American public related to pesticides?

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup - Pesticides

- **Met 12 times between October 2020 and November 2021 (approx. 24 hours of discussion)**
- **Major themes:**
 - Consumer perceptions of pesticides
 - Trade and Maximum Residue Levels
 - Pesticide industry efforts on sustainability
 - FIFRA process of registration and reregistration
 - EPA review of risk assessment process and communications on risk
 - State/EPA relationships
 - National Pesticide Information Center, risk communication
 - Endangered Species Act consultations and processes
 - Worker Protection Standards and environmental justice considerations

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup - Pesticides

Guest Speakers

- Crop Life America – Manojit Basu, Genevieve O’Sullivan, Molly O’Conner, Ralph Tristin
- EPA – Ed Messina, Mike Goodis, Brian Anderson, Dan Rosenblatt, Amy Miller, Carolyn Schroeder, Ryne Yarger
- Association of American Pest Control Officials (AAPCO) – Leo Reed and Pat Jones
- State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) – Gary Bahr
- National Pesticide Information Center – Kaci Buhl
- Ag Safe – Amy Wolfe

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup – Pesticides

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #1

How can EPA better communicate with the American public about the Agency’s holistic approach to pesticide management and improve the availability of information about the science-based process?

In order to accomplish this task, the FRRCC recommends EPA act on the following action items:

1. Develop and implement a robust, multi-media campaign to educate the American public about the benefits of pesticide products to the country, and the framework EPA follows as part of their regular in-depth, science-based decision-making process. Consider framing the messaging to connect the work and importance of the products to disinfectants and to agriculture’s sustainability efforts in the face of climate change. Such a campaign should include individual farmers and ranchers as the face of the effort. Information provided to the public through the campaign should be science and fact-based, and presented in a simple and straightforward manner.

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup – Pesticides

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #1

How can EPA better communicate with the American public about the Agency’s holistic approach to pesticide management and improve the availability of information about the science-based process?

In order to accomplish this task, the FRRCC recommends EPA act on the following action items:

2. Strengthen EPA’s fleet of embedded science communicators. A team of qualified individuals should be available within the Agency to facilitate two-way communication on pesticide-related issues. Such communication should be science-based, but the approach should be one of listening, helping find answers, and potentially also assisting in convening stakeholders.

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup – Pesticides

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #1

How can EPA better communicate with the American public about the Agency’s holistic approach to pesticide management and improve the availability of information about the science-based process?

In order to accomplish this task, the FRRCC recommends EPA act on the following action items:

3. Continue and/or increase EPA support of the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) to provide objective, science-based information about pesticides to the public. EPA should consider including all Land-Grant Universities/Extension (both Ag and Natural Resources and Family and Consumer Sciences) and state departments of agriculture across the country in the partnership. NPIC could create a training packet for representatives of Land-Grant Universities/Extension and state departments of agriculture to utilize for communication to the general public. Potential information would include registration and re-registration processes, risk and mitigation assessments, and use of pesticide products by various sectors of society. The Land-Grant Universities/Extension and state departments of agriculture representatives could also be trained in effective two-way communication on pesticide issues.

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup – Pesticides

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #1

How can EPA better communicate with the American public about the Agency's holistic approach to pesticide management and improve the availability of information about the science-based process?

In order to accomplish this task, the FRRCC recommends EPA act on the following action items:

4. Develop and implement a standard set of pesticide label information for consumers. Benefits of the product should be included in addition to risks and use restrictions.

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup – Pesticides

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #2

How can EPA reduce barriers to bringing crop protection tools to market while at the same time protecting the environment, natural resources, human health, as well as safeguarding pollinators and endangered species?

In order to accomplish this task, the FRRCC recommends EPA act on the following action items:

1. Formalize farmer involvement in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) registration and re-registration processes by developing an advisory board of farmers and ranchers to seek and utilize farmer and rancher input to understand realistic usage rates and patterns (rather than potential), develop proposed risk assessments and risk mitigation decisions, and identify and mitigate potential risks to threatened and endangered species.

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup – Pesticides

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #2

How can EPA reduce barriers to bringing crop protection tools to market while at the same time protecting the environment, natural resources, human health, as well as safeguarding pollinators and endangered species?

In order to accomplish this task, the FRRCC recommends EPA act on the following action items:

2. Seek to establish a discussion group modeled after the Animal Agriculture Discussion Group that would facilitate open dialogue between EPA and farmers and ranchers with regard to crop protection tools. The venue could provide a forum for open discussion and strengthening relationships, with an emphasis on facilitating farm visits by EPA leadership and staff to allow for full understanding of the impact of EPA decisions on farmers and ranchers.

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup – Pesticides

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #2

How can EPA reduce barriers to bringing crop protection tools to market while at the same time protecting the environment, natural resources, human health, as well as safeguarding pollinators and endangered species?

In order to accomplish this task, the FRRCC recommends EPA act on the following action items:

3. Expeditiously implement strategies for EPA pesticide decisions to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in a manner that ensures protections of threatened and endangered species, and provides effective pest control tools through an efficient, transparent and predictable regulatory framework. The Administration and EPA should develop a multi-year work plan with the focus of achieving holistic, long-term improvements to the ESA-FIFRA program. Interagency collaboration should be encouraged in an effort to identify and implement a more efficient process for EPA to consult with Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service on pesticide decisions under the ESA, and to work with USDA to determine how field data and conservation practices can inform mitigation measures for ESA pesticide consultations. EPA should create the formal farmer and rancher involvement and discussion group concepts listed above, and utilize them early in the FIFRA-ESA program. EPA should prioritize resources to mitigate pesticide effects on species most vulnerable to pesticides (e.g., species likely to receive an ESA “jeopardy” finding in a future pesticide consultation), as well as consider splitting the workload and process between products with only agricultural uses, and products with a mixture of agricultural and non-agricultural uses.

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup – Pesticides

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #2

How can EPA reduce barriers to bringing crop protection tools to market while at the same time protecting the environment, natural resources, human health, as well as safeguarding pollinators and endangered species?

In order to accomplish this task, the FRRCC recommends EPA act on the following action items:

4. Leverage the positive and productive work done by the agricultural community to date in implementing the Worker Protection Standards (WPS). EPA should explore the projects completed where the agricultural community developed culturally appropriate material in various languages and formats to reach individuals with the message of WPS. EPA should create an inventory of such resources, and spread those resources to the existing network of agricultural organizations involved in WPS implementation including Cooperative Extension, state departments of agriculture, agricultural trade associations, farmer groups, migrant health clinic network, agricultural non-profits, and education and community outreach groups. In doing so, EPA could take a leadership position to link all the efforts currently underway and leverage resources available in each state, tribal and local community, all while not causing unnecessary duplication of efforts.

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup – Pesticides

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION #2

How can EPA reduce barriers to bringing crop protection tools to market while at the same time protecting the environment, natural resources, human health, as well as safeguarding pollinators and endangered species?

In order to accomplish this task, the FRRCC recommends EPA act on the following action items:

5. Initiate a formal mechanism to allow for meaningful engagement with agricultural trade associations, farmer groups, and agricultural non-profits as EPA develops its regulatory approach and programming regarding WPS. Such meaningful engagement should include direct and regular communication directly from EPA WPS staff to the agricultural trade associations, farmer groups, and agricultural non-profits that the stakeholders of those groups receive the information in an accurate and timely fashion. The pending changes to the WPS provide the ideal opportunity for this effort to be tested and refined.

Wrap Up and Day 2 Overview

- Today's public comment session will begin at 4:30 pm ET using a separate link emailed to registered attendees and panelists.
- Tomorrow
 - Continued Committee Discussion on Pesticides
 - Committee Discussion on Water
 - Discussion of FRRCC 2022 Plans

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Next Steps

Committee discussion and voting on Pesticide charge topics.



Call to Order for Day Two

William Thomas (Tom) McDonald, Chair, FRRCC

Venus Welch-White, FRRCC DFO, EPA

Written Statements:

To submit written statements pertaining to this committee meeting, email them to the Designated Federal Officer at FRRCC@epa.gov prior to 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on November 30, 2021.



Remarks from EPA Office of Air and Radiation

*Alejandra Nuñez, Deputy Assistant
Administrator for Mobile Sources*



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Remarks from the Deputy Administrator
EPA Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe



Remarks from EPA Office of Water

*Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator
for the Office of Water*

Ad Hoc Workgroup on Water

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup - Water

Workgroup Members

- Graciela Ramirez
- Alex Johns
- Berry Berg
- Beth Sauerhaft
- Chris Pettit
- Davie Stephens
- Jesse McCurry
- Phillip Chavez
- Michael Crowder
- Jay Olsen
- John Collison
- Jeanette Lombardo
- Jamie Burr

FRRCC Ad Hoc Workgroup - Water

Met 18 times since full committee meeting in November 2020

Guest Speakers

- John Goodin, Director Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW)
- Radhika Fox, EPA Assistant Administrator, Office of Water (OW)
- Dr. Sharon Nappier, EPA
- National Program Leader for Water Reuse
- Zach Schafer, Special Advisor, OW
- Anna Wildeman, Former EPA Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, OW

Focus Areas

1. Ecosystems Markets
2. Water Quantity / Reuse
3. WOTUS

FRRCC Water Ad Hoc Working Group – Ecosystems Management System (EMS)

- Encourage EPA to collaborate with other Federal Agencies to “chalk the field.”
 - The market should remain free enterprise.
 - Agencies need to set guidelines to which credits can be generated, traded, and purchased.
- USDA has stated agriculture could play a prominent role in U.S. efforts to address climate change if farms and ranches undertake activities that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Including:
 - Conservation tillage, cover crops, & nitrogen fertilizer management.
 - Improving livestock production and manure management practices.
 - Planting trees or grass.

FRRCC Water Ad Hoc Working Group – Ecosystems Management System (EMS)

Specific Recommendations:

1. Seek collaborative agreement with USDA and FDA.
2. Develop Federal Advisory Board to inform the path.
3. Recommended FAB considerations (not limited to):
 - a. Primary object is to improve natural resources. Imperative that farmers and ranchers receive a significant majority of credit proceeds.
 - b. Sponsor an innovation challenge to reduce soil sampling costs.
 - c. Develop trade ratios.
 - d. USDA to list proven conservation practices and quantify environmental improvement.
 - e. Consider how an EMS affects transboundary watersheds & develop a guidebook for states.

FRRCC Water Ad Hoc Working Group – Ecosystems Management System (EMS)

Specific Recommendations (continued):

3. Recommended FAB considerations (not limited to):

- f. USDA to develop an EMS credit clearinghouse and verification program.
- g. Not create redundancy where effective State programs exist.
- h. Retroactive compensation for early adopters.
- i. Consideration of funding to implement for EPA, USDA, and FDA.

Next Steps

Committee discussion and voting on Water
charge topic: EMS

FRRCC Water Ad Hoc Working Group – WOTUS

1. Adhere to CWA and relevant Supreme Court precedent

2. Certainty and consistency

a. Clear terms that are easily interpreted by farmers, ranchers, and leaders of rural communities.

b. Consistent interpretation within EPA and Corp regions including other federal agencies.

c. Develop online, interactive tools capable of spatially mapping jurisdictional waters for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities to have as a resource.

d. Jurisdictional determinations must be made in the field (not by an online tool only).

FRRCC Water Ad Hoc Working Group – WOTUS

3. Define jurisdictional features with an eye toward allowing farmers, ranchers, and rural communities flexibility to implement innovative environmentally beneficial projects.

4. Exclusions

- a. Prior converted cropland.
- b. Groundwater.
- c. Farm ditches, road ditches, canals, ponds, playas, stock ponds, prairie potholes and other isolated features.
- d. Environmentally beneficial practices (tail water recovery, detention basins, etc.).
- e. Wastewater , reclaimed water, or recycle water systems.

5. Input on proposed roundtables.

Next Steps

Committee discussion and voting on Water
charge topic: WOTUS

FRRCC Water Ad Hoc Working Group – Water Quantity Discussion (No Advice Developed)

1. What grant programs are available to incentivize reuse?
2. A recommendation to have a water reuse liaison in each region.
3. What barriers are in place for Ag to reuse more water?
4. How can we reuse more construction/industrial storm water flow?
5. Evaluate separation technology for liquid manure systems.
6. What federal or national regulations or policies promote or discourage reuse development for agriculture and rural communities?
7. Brackish water reserves – alternative water source for reuse.
8. Oil Produced water – how can we reuse more?
9. Desalination –Ground water contamination, saltwater intrusion (east and west coast).
10. Wetland restoration, ground water recharge for conservation lands.
11. Tailwater recovery / recycled water – citrus, rice.
12. Front range towns running short on drinking water & potential for competing beneficial use with Ag.
13. Source water protection – reuse liaisons should be integrated into source water protection.
14. Utilization of reclaimed water Aquifer Storage and Recovery concepts to maintain aquifer levels and protect against salinity increases in traditional source water sources



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Discussion of FRRCC 2022 Plans

William Thomas (Tom) McDonald, Chair, FRRCC

Rod Snyder, Senior Agriculture Advisor to the EPA Administrator

- *FRRCC Rechartering*
- *Updating the Committee Charge*
- *Committee Member Nominations*

Wrap Up and Closing Remarks

William Thomas (Tom) McDonald, Chair, FRRCC

Rod Snyder, Agriculture Advisor to the EPA Administrator

Venus Welch-White, FRRCC DFO, EPA

