



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500  
Internet: <https://www.fcc.gov>  
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 20-260

Released: March 13, 2020

## FCC ANNOUNCES THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORKING GROUPS OF THE TASK FORCE FOR REVIEWING THE CONNECTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY NEEDS OF PRECISION AGRICULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES

### GN Docket No. 19-329

This Public Notice serves as notice that, consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act<sup>1</sup> and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018,<sup>2</sup> Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, in consultation with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, has appointed Working Group members to serve on the Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States (Precision Ag Connectivity Task Force or Task Force).

The following working groups will assist the Task Force in carrying out its work: (1) Mapping and Analyzing Connectivity on Agricultural Lands; (2) Examining Current and Future Connectivity Demand for Precision Agriculture; (3) Encouraging Adoption of Precision Agriculture and Availability of High-Quality Jobs on Connected Farms; and (4) Accelerating Broadband Deployment on Unserved Agricultural Lands. A full list of Task Force Working Group members appointed by the Chairman in consultation with the Secretary is attached to this Public Notice as Appendix A.<sup>3</sup>

More information about the Precision Ag Connectivity Task Force is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/task-force-reviewing-connectivity-and-technology-needs-precision-agriculture-united-states>. You may also contact Jesse Jachman, Designated Federal Officer of the Task Force, at (202) 418-2668, or [Jesse.Jachman@fcc.gov](mailto:Jesse.Jachman@fcc.gov); Erin Boone, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 418-0736, or [Erin.Boone@fcc.gov](mailto:Erin.Boone@fcc.gov); or Celia Lewis, Deputy Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 418-7456, or [Celia.Lewis@fcc.gov](mailto:Celia.Lewis@fcc.gov).

–FCC–

<sup>1</sup> Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 (FACA).

<sup>2</sup> Pub. L. No. 115-334, 132 Stat. 4490 (2018 Farm Bill).

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the working groups, see *FCC Announces and Solicits Nominations for Working Groups of the Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States*, GN Docket No. 19-329, Public Notice, DA 19-1188 (Nov. 19, 2019).

## APPENDIX A

**MEMBERS OF THE PRECISION AGRICULTURE CONNECTIVITY TASK FORCE  
WORKING GROUPS**

*\*indicates a member of the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force*

**Mapping and Analyzing Connectivity on Agricultural Lands Working Group:****Chair:**

Dr. Michael Adelaine\*  
Vice President for Technology and Security, *South Dakota State University*

**Vice Chair:**

Dr. Sreekala Bajwa  
Vice President, Dean & Director, *College of Agriculture & Montana Agricultural Experiment Station*

**Members:**

Seth Arndorfer\*  
Chief Executive Officer, *Dakota Carrier Network*

Dan Barcus  
Farmer & Rancher, *Blackfeet Nation*

Teddy Bekele\*  
Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, *Land O'Lakes*

Brent Birth  
President and Sole Member, Stone Corner Resources, LLC, *National Society of Professional Surveyors*

Joseph Carey  
Director, Wireless Strategy, Natural Resources Sector, *Trimble, Inc.*

Lynn Follansbee  
Vice President, Law & Policy, *USTelecom – The Broadband Association*

Todd Harpest  
External Affairs & Regulatory Director, *MetaLINK Technologies*

Tom Kealey  
Director, *Idaho Department of Commerce*

Miles Kuschel  
Owner & Operator, Rocking K Ranch, *Minnesota Farm Bureau*

David Larson  
Precision Solutions and Telematics Advisor, *CNH Industrial*

Todd Myers  
President, Kenneth G. Myers Construction, *Power & Communication Contractors Association*

Matt Splitter  
Farmer & Member of Kansas Corn Growers Association, *National Corn Growers Association*

Joy Sterling  
Chief Executive Officer, *Iron Horse Vineyards*

Mark Suggs  
Executive Vice President & General Manager of Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation,  
*National Rural Electric Cooperative Association*

**Technical Advisor:**

Jessica Zufolo, Senior Advisor, Strategic Partnerships – Lifeline Division, *Universal Service Administrative Company*

**Examining Current and Future Connectivity Demand for Precision Agriculture Working Group:**

**Chair:**

Daniel T. Leibfried\*  
Director, Advanced Technology, Intelligent Solutions Group, *John Deere*

**Vice Chair:**

Blake Hurst  
President, *Missouri Farm Bureau*

**Members:**

Andy Bater\*  
Farmer, *Fifth Estate Growers LLC*

Peter Brent\*  
Operations Manager and IT Director, *New Vision Farms*

Dr. Ranveer Chandra  
Chief Scientist, Azure Global, *Microsoft*

Chris Chinn\*  
Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture, *Missouri Department of Agriculture*

Valerie Connelly  
Vice President of Government Affairs & Public Relations, *Choptank Electric Cooperative*

Jennifer Manner  
Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary, *Hughes Network Systems LLC*

Ron Miller  
Farmer & Elected Township Trustee in Crawford County, Ohio, *Ohio Township Association*

Catherine Moyer\*  
Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, *Pioneer Communications*

Aeric Reilly  
Volunteer Policy & Strategic Management Director, *U.S. Cattlemen's Association*

Brian Scarpelli  
Senior Global Policy Counsel, *The App Association (ACT)*

Steven Strickland  
Executive Director, *ExteNet Systems, Inc.*

Lucas Turpin  
IT Director for the College of Agricultural Sciences, *Oregon State University*

George Woodward  
President and CEO of Trilogy Networks, Inc., *Rural Wireless Association*

**Encouraging Adoption of Precision Agriculture and Availability of High-Quality Jobs on Connected Farms Working Group:**

**Chair:**

Mike McCormick\*  
President, *Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation*

**Vice Chair:**

Julie Bushell  
President, Paige Wireless, *Irrigation Association*

**Members:**

The Honorable Dale Artho\*  
Commissioner, *Deaf Smith County, TX*

Robert Blair  
Farmer, *Three Canyon Farms*

Lennie Blakeslee  
Managing Director, *CoBank*

Dr. Dennis Buckmaster  
Professor of Agriculture and Biological Engineering and Director of Digital Agriculture, *Purdue University*

Russ Elliott  
State Broadband Manager, *Washington State Broadband Office*

Michelle Erickson-Jones  
Volunteer Policy & Communications Coordinator, *Rural and Agriculture Council of America*

Michael Gomes\*  
Vice President, Business Development – IoT, *Topcon Agriculture*

Jose Guevara  
Chief Executive Officer, *Pecan Grove Farms*

Robert Hance  
Chief Executive Officer, *Midwest Energy and Communications*

Trenton Kissee  
Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources, *Muscogee (Creek) Nation*

Aaron Kline  
Head of Business Development, *Skylo Technologies*

Rob McDonald  
Operations Manager, *Madison Telephone*

Russell Peotter  
Senior Advisor, *America's Public Television Stations*

Josh Seidemann  
Vice President of Policy, *NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association*

Dan Spray  
President, *Precision Technology, Inc.*

**Accelerating Broadband Deployment on Unserved Agricultural Lands Working Group:**

**Chair:**

Jeff Pettit\*  
President and CEO of Noash Construction, Inc., *National Association of Tower Erectors*

**Vice Chair:**

Heather Hampton+Knodle  
Vice President, Knodle Ltd. Farms, *American Agri-Women*

**Members:**

Renee Bivens  
State Government Affairs Analyst, *DISH*

Luke Deryckx  
Chief Technology Officer, *Ookla*

Anthony Dillard\*  
Tribal Councilman, *Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma*

Craig Ganssle  
Chief Executive Officer, *Farmwave*

David Goldman\*  
Director of Satellite Policy, *SpaceX*

Betsy Huber  
President, *The National Grange*

Zach Hunnicutt  
Farmer, *Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation*

Nick Moody  
Board of Directors, *American Soybean Association*

Jarrett Taubman  
Public Policy Manager, Connectivity & Access, *Facebook*

Dr. Alex Thomasson  
Professor and Endowed Chairholder in Cotton Engineering, Ginning, and Mechanization, Department of  
Biological and Agricultural Engineering, *Texas A&M University*

Jimmy Todd  
Chief Executive Officer, *Nex-Tech*

Steve Vail\*  
Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors, *NineStar Connect*

The Honorable Dan Watermeier  
Commissioner, *Nebraska Public Service Commission*