
MEETING AGENDA

AGC – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Meeting **9:40 AM – 10:30 AM**

Welcome Remarks and Introductions

Todd Roberts
Past AGC Federal Division Chair, Past AGC NRCS Chair

NRCS Remarks

Noller Herbert
Deputy Chief for Science and Technology

Ralph Smith
Chief (Acting), Watersheds Branch

Arthur (Arde) Ramthun, P.E.
National Construction Engineer

Kevin Farmer
Director, Conservation Engineering Division

Members of National Construction Engineer Service Headquarters

AGC Questions for NRCS

1. Agency Budget Overview and Update

- A. Please provide a general update on upcoming and anticipated projects included in the approved FY2023 enacted budgets and the FY2024 requests.
- B. What is the breakdown of projects? By project types; By procurement/project delivery method (design-build, CMc, design-bid-build); By state/location.
- C. There are projects that are authorized, but do not have funds appropriated. What is the status of these projects, and when are appropriations expected?

2. Infrastructure Investment

A record-setting [AGC backed](#) construction investment bill, the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill, represents a critical chance to significantly invest in building and maintaining a broad range of physical infrastructure without unnecessarily burdening the construction industry with new mandates. The infrastructure bill provides significant money to [NRCS](#) for infrastructure investments. In 2020, the AGC-backed *Great American Outdoors Act*, which especially helps address the needs of National Parks Service infrastructure and facilities.

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- A. Please describe NRCS plans to execute projects originating from the infrastructure bills.
 - B. Will there be a preferred project delivery method? For example: For example: IDIQ programs, Design–Build, Best-Value, etc.
 - C. How can AGC and NRCS work together to expedite the completion of these projects?

3. Watershed Program

The bipartisan infrastructure law provides \$918 million for Watershed Programs.

- A. Please provide an update on this program.
- B. Are there any significant changes in procurement expected?
- C. Who is the best point of contact for contractors to learn more?

4. PLA Executive Order

On February 4, 2022, President Biden signed a new [Executive Order on Use of Project Labor Agreements For Federal Construction Projects \(PLA\)](#). When in effect, this Executive Order (E.O.) will require every prime contractor and subcontractor to engage in negotiation or agree to PLAs on federal construction projects valued at \$35 million or more. (AGC of America [statement](#)) According to an AGC of America [analysis](#) of data obtained via a [Construction Advocacy Fund](#)-financed lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act, the Department of Defense federal construction agencies rejected PLA mandates 99.4 percent of the time even when encouraged to do so under the Obama Administration.

- A. How does NRCS intend to apply it?
- B. How does NRCS intend to pursue exemptions for its programs?

5. Partnering

AGC believes that engaging in project-level partnering as committed team members with NRCS will improve project execution, staff efficiency (NRCS and contractor), safety, trust, and the project team relationships. AGC members have embraced partnering and are committed to bringing key decision makers into the fold in order to get the most out of the process. We see an opportunity to improve the process by getting a commitment from all parties attending to bring key decision makers (i.e. Design Manager, Contracting Officer, Contract Specialist, Project Manager, and Operation Manager, etc.).

- A. What is NRCS's policy on Formal vs. Informal Partnering?
- B. Does NRCS have a policy regarding what agency staff should participate in this process?
- C. If so, what is that policy and what can contractors do to help encourage attendance by key decision makers, particularly on large or complex projects?
- D. How does NRCS ensure that partnering is actually followed through and abided by? What metrics are tracked from the date of partnering through project completion?
- E. How can AGC and NRCS work together to increase partnering?

AGC – NRCS Meeting
2023 Federal Contractors Conference
June 13, 2023



OPEN DISCUSSION

- How can AGC work to help NRCS?
 - Questions from the floor.
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