

**USDA EQUITY COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING #6
October 24 – October 26, 2023
AGENDA**

Time Zone: LOCAL, PT

October 24, 2023: 9a.m.– 4:30 p.m. PT

October 25, 2023: 9a.m.– 4:30 p.m. PT

October 26, 2023: 9a.m.– 4:00 p.m. PT

Zoom for Government

[Main Registration Link](#)

TIME	TOPICS
Overview: This document outlines the agenda for the sixth public meeting of the Equity Commission.	
Meeting Objectives:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equity Commission, Agriculture (Ag) Subcommittee, and Rural Community Economic Development (RCED) Subcommittee members will hear from USDA leadership on the status of equity at USDA and progress toward implementing interim recommendations. 2. Equity Commission and Subcommittees will discuss tabled recommendations and/or new recommendations. 3. Subcommittee members will present refinements to recommendations. 4. Equity Commission will deliberate and vote on full set of recommendations to include in final report. 	
DAY 1: Tuesday, October 24, 2023	
8:45 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Zoom Room Open – Time for participants to log on and test their technology
9:00 a.m. <i>5 minutes</i>	Opening of Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cecilia Hernandez, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) - Objective: Call meeting to order and take attendance.
9:05 a.m. <i>10 minutes</i>	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Arizona Provost Dr. Ronald Marx
9:15 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Co-Chair Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Rodriguez and Co-Chair Cousin
9:30 a.m. <i>5 minutes</i>	Goals for Day 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO Hernandez - Objective: Provide an outline of Day 1 and an overview of voting procedures for the day.
9:35 a.m. <i>55 minutes</i>	Department's Commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Secretary Torres Small - Objective: Share reflections of time as Undersecretary of Rural Development and her commitment to equity as Deputy Secretary.
10:30 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Administrative Break
10:45 a.m. <i>45 minutes</i>	Evolution of US Agriculture: Diversity and Equity Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro by Dr. Goldman • Equity Commission Member Dr. Ronald Rainey - Objective: Present an overview of diversity and equity issues.
11:30 a.m. <i>30 minutes</i>	Reflection of Farmworker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Farmworker

	- Objective: Share reflections from the field.
12:00 p.m. <i>60 minutes</i>	Break for Lunch
1:00 p.m. <i>30 minutes</i>	Reflection of Farmer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Farmer - Objective: Share reflections from the field.
1:30 p.m. <i>105 minutes</i>	Presentation of New Recommendations and/or Revisions to Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated by DFO Hernandez - Objective: Present amendments, revisions, and/or new recommendations for inclusion in the final report.
2:45 p.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Administrative Break
3:00 p.m. <i>60 minutes</i>	Vote on Recommendations for Final Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated by DFO Hernandez - Objective: Vote on all previously passed recommendations that do not have amendments or revisions for inclusion in the final report.
4:00 p.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Day 1 Recap / Day 2 Plan and Adjourn – DFO Hernandez

DAY 2: Wednesday, October 25, 2023	
8:45 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Zoom Room Open – Time for participants to log on and test their technology
9:00 a.m. <i>5 minutes</i>	Opening of Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO Hernandez - Objective: Call meeting to order, take attendance, and provide overview of agenda and goals for Day 2.
9:05 a.m. <i>25 minutes</i>	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chair Rodriguez and Co-Chair Cousin • Dr. Goldman, Senior Advisor for Racial Equity
9:30 a.m. <i>30 minutes</i>	State of Affairs of Internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility at USDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L’Tonya Davis, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer - Objective: Provide an overview of DEIA at USDA.
10:00 a.m. <i>60 minutes</i>	The State of Agriculture in the Southwest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by Dr. Goldman, Senior Advisor for Racial Equity • Charlene Fernandez, State Director, RD (AZ), Keisha Tatem, State Conservationist, NRCS (AZ), and Ginger Sykes Torres, State Executive Director, FSA (AZ) - Objective: Provide an update on state of agriculture in Arizona and how these leaders from various USDA agencies work cooperatively.
10:45 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Administrative Break
11:00 a.m. <i>30 minutes</i>	Public Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated by Lionel Savage - Objective: Provide the public an opportunity to provide input for the Equity Commission to consider as it completes its work.
11:30 a.m. <i>45 minutes</i>	Presentation and Discussion of Refinements to Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro by DFO Hernandez • RCED Focus Areas – RCED Members - Objective: Present and discuss refinements to RCED recommendations for

	inclusion in the final report.
12:15 p.m. <i>90 minutes</i>	Lunch
1:45 p.m. <i>75 minutes</i>	Presentation and Discussion of Refinements to Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro by DFO Hernandez • RCED Focus Areas – RCED Members - Objective: Present and discuss refinements to RCED recommendations for inclusion in the final report.
3:00 p.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Administrative Break
3:15 p.m. <i>60 minutes</i>	Presentation and Discussion of Refinements to Recommendations—Continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro by DFO Hernandez • RCED Focus Areas – RCED Members - Objective: Present and discuss refinements to RCED recommendations for inclusion in the final report.
4:15 p.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Day 2 Recap / Day 3 Plan and Adjourn – DFO Hernandez

DAY 3: Thursday, October 26, 2023	
8:45 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Zoom Room Open – Time for participants to log on and test their technology
9:00 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Opening of Meeting and Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO Hernandez - Objective: Take attendance and provide an outline of Day 3
9:15 a.m. <i>60 minutes</i>	Department’s Commitment to Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary Vilsack Address to Equity Commission - Objective: To demonstrate commitment to recommendations being brought forth by the Equity Commission and Subcommittees.
10:15 a.m. <i>15 minutes</i>	Administrative Break
10:30 a.m. <i>45 minutes</i>	The State of OASCR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Dr. Penny Brown Reynolds, OASCR - Objective: Provide an update on the state of civil rights at USDA.
11:15 a.m. <i>45 minutes</i>	Implementation Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Goldman, Senior Advisor for Racial Equity • Deputy Undersecretary Montaña Greene, FPAC • Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration Kimberly Peyser - Objective: Leaders to engage in dialogue regarding implementation progress of Equity Commission recommendations at USDA.
12:00 p.m. <i>60 minutes</i>	Lunch
1:00 p.m. <i>180 minutes</i>	Deliberations and Voting on Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity Commission Members only - Objective: Deliberate and vote on amendments, revisions, and/or new recommendations for inclusion in the final report.
4:00 p.m. <i>+60 minutes</i>	Adjourn – DFO Hernandez - <i>Additional time to continue deliberation and voting if needed</i>