

Colorado Democrats Rural Initiative Working Committees

Committee	Proposed Members
<p>Rural Initiative Organizing Committee –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose a constitution and bylaws for the initiative by February 28, 2015 • Plan, develop a budget and set direction • Message: refine rural issues brought forward by other initiative committees into messages that will resonate and produce change • Communication: provide a continual stream of communication on rural issues to Colorado democrats. Maintain active internet and social media communications 	<p>Dick Barkey - Weld Ben Rainbolt – RM Farmers Union Tom Parks – Yuma Michael Bowman – Yuma Carolyn Riggs – Gunnison Jill Duvall - Elbert</p>
<p>Legislative Action Committee –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track all state legislative bills that have a rural impact • Maintain continual contact with legislative committees that impact rural citizens • Lobby state legislature on key proposals • Organize legislative support from democrats for key legislation • Communicate regarding key legislation on web page, social media and newsletters to all Colorado democrats • The legislative committee will include members or liaison representatives from the issue committees below 	<p>Ed Bowditch - RM Farmers Union Bill Medcap – RM Farmers Union Gail Schwartz - Gunnison Audy Leggere-Hickey - Boulder</p>
<p>Agricultural Production and Food Distribution Committee -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address rural hunger and poverty • Track federal legislation such as the farm bill and SNAP programs • Address animal production and issues such as GMO crop production • Address small grower and family farm efficacy against large corporate farming • Address sustainable agricultural practices 	<p>Tom Parks - Yuma Ben Rainbolt – RM Farmers Union</p>

<p>Natural Resources, Energy and Environment Committee –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track oil and gas production policy and practices • Study air and soil quality issues • Promote sustainable energy production in rural areas • Promote water conservation and water quality • Track water policy and water law issues 	<p>Kent Pepler – RM Farmers Union Michael Bowman – Yuma Tom Morrissey – La Plata Bob Shivley – Garfield Dale Lyons - Huerfano</p>
<p>Rural Economic Development Committee -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote job creation in rural communities • Promote rural transportation improvements including roads, rail, bus and air • Promote improved public education in rural areas • Promote development of technical and community college programs in rural areas • Develop data on current job trends in rural areas for use in legislative proposals 	<p>Dale McCall – RM Farmers Union Chuck Hollum – Colo Health Op Chuck Tidd – Saguache Bob Wilson – Jefferson Roland Williams - Custer</p>
<p>Rural County Democratic Party Renewal Committee -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish urban to rural partnerships to support and encourage rural democrats • Help organize rural county parties for increased participation in caucuses and better support of rural candidates • Provide support for rural democratic candidates for all public offices • Provide candidate and campaign training and campaign resources • Establish a regional and sub-regional structure to support county party leaders • Provide improved communication tools for county parties • Monitor Colorado Democratic Party activity and assure that rural issues have priority and support from the state party 	<p>Tom Parks – Yuma Bob Kjelland – RM Farmers Union Scott Beilfuss – Mesa Dennis Obduskey- Park Anne Wilseck - Exec Dir. Co Dems Carolyn Boller – Sec. Co Dems</p>