



Meeting Request Form for Administrator Scott Pruitt

Today's Date: February 19, 2018

Meeting Date: March 8, 2018

Meeting Time: Before 9:30, 11:30-1, after 2:30.

Requested Location (if offsite, please list address, parking instructions, etc.): EPA Building

Requestor: Steven Rhines, Noble Research Institute, LLC, Ardmore, Oklahoma

Purpose of the Meeting: Brief the Administrator and EPA staff regarding the formation of a national coalition, convened by the Noble Research Institute, to create a new voluntary environmental services market that benefits agricultural producers and improves the environment for society at large. The underlying environmental services market will be built upon a land stewardship and management platform to promote stewardship through management, and specifically, promote practices to build soil health on working lands, which yield multiple ecosystem services, including increased carbon stores and improved water quality.

Background on the Meeting: In August 2017, we met with Administrator Pruitt in Oklahoma, we outlined an early concept for a land stewardship program to yield and quantify ecosystem services on working lands with a related free market approach to properly value such ecosystem services. Since this early conversation, Noble has hosted a series of convenings of industry and market stakeholders; the early concept is taking shape and efforts are focused on creation of the appropriate free market platform.

Role of the Administrator: Identify any considerations (e.g., ecosystem services priorities, regulatory factors, documented economic benefits, expertise) that should influence or shape the early design of the land stewardship program/ecosystem services market; identify alignment between EPA policy or programs and Noble's position of "stewardship through proper management" for working agricultural lands; note the Noble Research Institute's willingness and ability to assist the Administrator or EPA regarding agricultural production or agricultural land stewardship, primarily in the Southern Great Plains.

Attendees: William Buckner, president, Noble Research Institute, LLC, Bruce Knight, principal and founder, Strategic Conservation Solutions (former Chief of NRCS-USDA, 2002-2006), Steve Rowe, president, Newtrient

Point of Contact: Steve Rhines, sprhines@noble.org