



"To protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing landowners and citizens through education, land management, and on-the-ground projects."

150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste. A, Oroville, CA 95965 * (530) 693-3173 * bcrd@carcd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM

**Location: Klamath Conference Room
202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA 95965**

Or Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85961204034?pwd=UjNORGpQMmRXTGJENetiV2Z4QzBPZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 6120 4034

Passcode: 555329

Join via phone +1 408 638 0968

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

3. **REVISIONS TO AGENDA** (only emergency situations requiring the need to take immediate actions may be added as action items pursuant to Gov. code 549954.2(b))

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (on non-action items)

(1) (3 min. limit per speaker/topic, 15 minutes/person/meeting total) (2) Public comment is encouraged. Any member of the public may address the Board with any comment related to the Resource Conservation District's areas of concern.

*However, no action can be taken by the Board on such items at this current meeting. The Board may direct staff to agendaize such items for consideration at a future meeting. (3) *Please note that all action items will have time set aside for public comment prior to the vote occurring. After a motion*

is made and seconded by two BCRCO Directors, the Chair will first ask for any further discussion from the Directors and Associate Directors and then Chair will open up the item for brief public comment limited to 2 minutes/person. After the public comment period closes a vote will be held.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Teleconferencing Requirements of the Brown Act AB 361 BCRCD Resolution 01202022 Extension
- b) Review and approval of the minutes of the BOD meeting held 4/21/2022
John moved to accept the above 2 items, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously. Item below was removed from consent agenda since not all Directors were present for it.
- c) Review and approval of the minutes of the special BOD meeting held 4/28/2022 – John moved to accept these minutes Colleen seconded; motion passed with Dave abstaining since he had not been at that meeting.

5. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield – The fact that we meet the 3rd week of the month is always tricky. Bookkeeper Cheryl proposes that henceforth, Board reports cover the previous full month (so, May’s report covers April), and then a supplement will be issued right before board meeting with updates. This system itself will likely gradually be phased out in favor of the reports QBO itself generates. As for A/P, it will be issued, instead of as the A/P format used in the past, as a check registry with a distinction shown between payments we’ve already received reimbursements for (“To Print”) and payments we can pay midcycle once we receive reimbursement from the funder (“To PWR”). This will enable us to stay competitive in attracting contractors because we can pay (invoices that were listed on the previous BOD meeting’s check register) promptly. John moved to accept the a/p along with authorizing Treasurer to pay the listed “PWR” checks midcycle. Samantha seconded; Motion passed unanimously. P.S.: Colleen has sent out 18 letters to auditors requesting proposals to perform our next audit; deadline is June 15th.
- b) National Association of Conservation Districts Membership -Colleen Hatfield – Board discussed the costs and benefits of the membership in this organization that advocates for RCDs nationwide and sometimes sponsors trainings, etc. In the past, we’ve paid the \$100 membership level. However, Colleen feels \$250 (Bronze level) would also be appropriate. John moved we join at \$100, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously. Next month, we’ll look at CSDA (California Special Districts Association)membership.
- c) Agreement amendment extension with California State Parks C1938003, Bidwell Sacramento Walnut Orchard Restoration -Thad Walker – The project is in the maintenance phase at this point and this extension will extend out the agreement to June 30, 2023, which will allow RiverPartners time to expend the remaining \$60K that remains in the agreement for maintenance. Mostly just watering due to drought – no remaining deliverables. John moved to adopt, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- d) Agreement with California State Water Resources Control Board for the Butte Creek Camp Fire Post-Fire Recovery Project, Centerville Road, in the amount of \$784,115 - Thad Walker – John moved to adopt agreement; Samantha seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- e) Agreement with Lori Harrington for cultural resource surveys for Butte Creek Camp Fire Post-Fire Recovery Project, Centerville Road -Thad Walker – John moved to adopt the agreement with Cultural Resource Associates; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- f) Agreement with SNC, in the amount of \$540,276 to begin work on Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFC) grant #962 - Wolfy Rogle – This is a project where BCRCD was selected to lead a coalition of 6 Butte County organizations to collaboratively advance forest health projects. The 6 organizations are BCRCD, BCFSC, NCRLT, and 3 Tribes (KonKow Valley Band of Maidu, Mechoopda, and Berry Creek/Tyme Maidu). John moved to approve the agreement, Samantha seconded, motion

passed unanimously.

- g) Agreement with Northern California Regional Land Trust for stipends for forest health collaborative meeting participation (RFFC grant)- Wolfy Rougle – John moved to adopt the agreement, including the deletion of the insurance requirements for underground explosion and pollution; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously
- h) Agreement with Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria for stipends for forest health collaborative meeting participation (RFFC grant)- Wolfy Rougle - John moved to adopt the agreement, Samantha seconded; motion passed unanimously
- i) Agreement with Konkow Valley Band of Maidu for stipends for forest health collaborative meeting participation (RFFC grant)- Wolfy Rougle - Colleen moved to adopt the agreement; Samantha seconded; motion passed unanimously
- j) Agreement with Butte County Fire Safe Council for subcontracted work under RFFC grant - Wolfy Rougle - Colleen moved to adopt the agreement; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously
- k) Agreement with Sierra Institute to provide hydrology survey and reports to Upper Butte Creek project - Wolfy Rougle - Colleen moved to adopt the agreement; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously
- l) Agreement with Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc (COCO) of one-year AIM (Action, Implementation and Mitigation) grant in the amount of \$52,184 to support prescribed fire education - Wolfy Rougle - John moved to adopt the agreement; Allen seconded; motion amended to correct the mistake that on the CoCo information, line 4 and 5 are swapped (phone vs email); motion passed unanimously.
- m) Agreement with Watershed Center for 2-year RFFC grant (458-2503), in the amount of \$113,894 to support prescribed fire education (includes Conflict of Interest form and Request for Advance): - Wolfy Rougle – Colleen moved to adopt the agreement; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously
- n) Options for vehicle purchase to support Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project and future BCRCD needs -Thad Walker – Due to the remote nature and rough terrain on the UBC project, asking staff to use personal vehicles isn't very realistic. The vehicle we need is in the \$30K-40K range right now, due to low stocks. Most of our current grants will only support mileage reimbursements, but actually this itself would provide the funding available to support vehicle payments for this summer. For future grants, there's an option to self-lease (lease the vehicle BCRCD already owns to the project) at a standard State-set rate (i.e. currently \$25.30/hr for a 4x4 truck), where the grantor allows it. Vehicle would be stationed in Chico since that is where staff live. Samantha observed RCD would not want to commit to any floating interest rate (e.g. "1% over prime") since prime will undoubtedly be rising. Also, recommended against Nissans for work involving dust and dirt. Board directed staff to look for a pickup, meeting the parameters, in the \$30-45K price range, and work with Dave to bring the item to a special meeting for quick turnaround purchase approval. John and Samantha asked that the selected vehicle be made in America.
- o) Agreement amendment for Phase 1 to Red Mountain Resource for Concow Resilience Project -Cameron Musser – Would amend RMR's scope of work to remove/delay site prep in Pyrosilviculture unit until after the burning finally is implemented by FS/CAL FIRE; would instead use that money to reduce hazard trees. Would also add additional oak release acres to RMR's contract since they have performed so well so far. John moved to adopt; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- p) Agreement amendment for Phase 2 to Red Mountain Resource for Concow Resilience

Project -Cameron Musser - Would amend RMR's scope of work to remove/delay site planting in Pyrosilviculture unit until after the burning finally is implemented by FS/CAL FIRE. Colleen moved to adopt; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- q) Agreement with Butte County for Connected Communities Colby Mountain Project, in the amount of \$1,000,000 for trail construction-Thad Walker – This is a one-time Congressional allocation as part of the COVID-relief package. It was distributed by each State to the counties and cities; Butte County is using its share in part to advance tourism and economic development as a COVID recovery strategy. This \$1,000,000 will fund non-motorized trails only. However, separately (using Great American Outdoors Act funding), RCD and FS will work together to improve and double size of Jonesville Sno-Park, allow for legal OHV access from that parking lot to the NFS roads system, and add a vault toilet & equestrian parking & dispersed camping at Humboldt Summit. John moved to accept the \$1,000,000 funding; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- r) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, June 16th, 2022, at 9:00 AM.
Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

6. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- a) Staff Updates – Based on requests from last meeting, staff added more financial information to each grant listed in the project updates. Cameron has been working with BCCER staff to recruit and soon train 4 new forest health technicians to conduct 518 stand exams in the UBC project area this summer. John asked for a “last updated” date on each project update so board can easily see which items didn't justify any updates in the preceding month. Cultural resources question on Granite Basin has been resolved (consultation with SHPO resulted in the trail segment being deemed non-eligible).

7. PARTNERS' REPORTS (5 minute limit per group)

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Was with us earlier but had to leave at 10
- b) Butte County departments – Kelly Peterson, Butte County Dept of Water and Resource Conservation Dept – Kelly shared that her Dept has new Director, Kami Loeser. There are 3 major things Kelly's dept is working on: Drought; SGMA, and strategic planning for the dept. **Drought:** We're in our 3rd year of drought. The state drought task force met yesterday with updates from DWR, CAL FIRE, UCANR, and groundwater measurements (including from Kelly). The currently available drought report summarizes the economic and natural impact (groundwater levels, water transfers, etc) of the drought's 2nd year (last year) and will be published in about a week, accompanied by a June 1st webinar from 12-1:30 (see DWRC website). In Palermo, about 1000+ residents are going off individual wells that are subject to septic system contamination and onto a unified water system. **SGMA:** All subbasins have had their GSPs submitted on time and in compliance; some are looking at long-term financing. **Strategic plan update:** There will be a very good workshop on May 24th at BOS workshop at 1 pm timed item, called “Water Workshop”. Dept. will get direction from the Board on what roles and resources staff has relative to GSAs. There's an upcoming grant program called SGMA Implementation, slated to come out in fall 2022 with funds likely released Aug 2023. This funding will allow agencies to fill data gaps and fund projects that GSPs' project proponents have already developed proposals for. BCRC would be welcome to draft a project proposal that could be funded using the grant program, or alternatively, if funding arrives for a specific project, perhaps RCD could be a bidder/subcontractor.
- c) Community groups and agencies - none

8. CLOSED SESSION – Directors only

a) Personnel Discussion: Updates on the current hiring process, and applicants for open staff positions were provided to the board. No action was taken.

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report

10. ADJOURNMENT

***NOTE:** The Butte County Resources Conservation District (BCRCD) distributes its Board meeting agendas electronically at least 24 hours in advance of meetings. If you would like to be added to, or removed from, the email list, please notify the Butte County RCD at (530) 534-0112, ext. 122 or by email to: bcrd@carcd.org. The BCRCD also publicly posts notice and agenda of meetings 72 hours in advance of meetings at the Butte County RCD office located at 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville, CA. **Reasonable Accommodations:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Butte County RCD Manager at (530) 534-0112, ext. 122.*

Please note that all action items will have time set aside for public comment prior to the vote occurring. After a motion is made and seconded by two BCRCD Directors, the Chair will first ask for any further discussion from the Directors and Associate Directors and then the Chair will open up the item for brief public comment limited to 2 minutes per person. After the public comment period closes, a vote will be held