



“To protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing partners, landowners, and the community 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, December 18, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Location: Klamath Conference Room

202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA 95965

Or Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88974119154?pwd=V01CaUpYVEw3VFpNQS84YkFSSmJkQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 7411 9154

Passcode: 575904

Join via phone +1 408 638 0968

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President – 9:04 am
- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Dave Lee; Directors Jeff Carter and Andy Sohnrey; Treasurer Colleen Hatfield; District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Dallas Koller, Wolfy Rougle
- 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)) - None
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT (on non-action items) - None**

(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 BCRC D 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.

5. CONSENT AGENDA:

a) **Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 11/16/2025**

Andrew Sohnrey was not present in November so was unable to vote on the minutes; item must be tabled until Allen Harthorn can be present

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) **Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield** – Colleen noted that since October, our accounts payable have exceeded our accounts receivable. This makes more sense when you consider we received almost \$1.5M in bills from contractors in November alone. Reimbursements from funders have not kept pace. However, we expect this to resolve in January or February.
- Thad added payables only exceed receivables when considered on an accrual basis; if the bookkeeping were run on a cash basis, we would show receivables exceeding payables by \$83,000.
- Colleen also observed that in each of the past several fiscal years, we are consistently “in the red” for the first half of the fiscal year but then “in the black” for the second half of the fiscal year. This year, we still have large final invoices outstanding on (for example) Centerville, Colby Trails ARPA funding, and (\$50K final withholding on) SNC-1312. Thad remarked that this situation will be mitigated in the future by seeking more grants with advances and, for Upper Butte, by the Forest Resiliency Bond (FRB) if the BOD approves it in early 2026. Andy moved, Colleen seconded, to accept the financials; motion passed unanimously. At this point, Director Carter arrived.
- b) **Agreement with Nigro & Nigro PC for multi year Audit Services -Thad Walker** – We experienced a lot of difficulty securing an auditor this year, repeatedly hearing that firms are swamped and have little capacity, particularly with regard to the federally required “single audit” that we need for the first time this year. But, we finally received a proposal from a well respected firm, Nigro & Nigro (sounds like “nitro” with a g) for a price that is within what we budgeted for. Colleen moved, Andrew seconded to approve the agreement; motion carried unanimously.
- c) **California Association of Resource Conservation District, Ballot for Election of Officers for the Board of Directors for the Adoption of Resolutions, and for Approval of the Amended Bylaws-Colleen Hatfield** – *[Informational item for this month, as the ballot was received very shortly before the deadline]* To pass any kind of vote at the CARCD conference (which took place in November), you have to have a majority of delegates from **dues-paying** RCDs. We are a dues-paying RCD and we were there, but not all other RCDs sent delegates. That meant the meeting fell 1 qualified vote short of a majority! The thwarted voting process has now transitioned to a vote by Google form. 9 resolutions, plus bylaws, plus a slate of officers are now all on the Google ballot, Therefore, to accommodate the holidays and give all RCDs’ boards time to consider it all, final vote is now scheduled for March. Colleen encouraged the Board to review the election packet for next month, and stated she is available to answer questions before the vote.
- d) **Agreement with G&A Nor-Cal Tree Service, Upper Ridge Nature Preserve Hazard Fuels Reduction Project -Dallas Koller** – The BLM’s URNP is getting overgrown again; brush is pushing up against neighbors’ fences. BLM asked us to circulate an RFP for fuels reduction, then select and oversee a contractor. G&A, who are based in Red Bluff, bid about \$65K for the 69-ac project, has a good reputation, and their great reference from FRRCD (as specifically well-qualified to work within a nature preserve) means a lot. We had 11 bids! BLM is the funder. Dallas noted the low price allows us to save more of BLM’s money which we can use for implementation at Forks of Butte. Jeff moved, Colleen seconded, to approve the agreement; motion carried unanimously.
- e) **Agreement with California Association of Resource Conservation District, CalFire**

Increasing Pace and Scale: Taking Critical RCD Project to Implementation,

Amendment 3 -Dallas Koller – An amendment to increase our total budget for our existing grant by almost \$20,000 in funds CARCD found unspent from other agreements. This would cover the cost of an archaeological report for the Jonesville FMP, provide an extra \$1,700 to cover PBA mileage, and an extra \$7,916 for PBA wages. Colleen moved, Jeff seconded, to gratefully accept the agreement; motion carried unanimously.

- f) **Next Board of Directors Meeting** Thursday, January ~~15~~ **22**, 2026, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA – Colleen mentioned that our bookkeeper, Cheryl, will be on vacation the first part of January and thus might not be able to complete the financials by Jan 15. Colleen moved to change the board meeting to Jan 22. Andrew seconded; motion carried unanimously.

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

a) **Project Updates** – Thad explained how we continue to seek to extend funding for the PBA: individuals have donated \$3,700 so far which can be used for anything; staff have written both a \$50,000 FAC Net grant and a \$75,000 AIM grant. The Butte Fire Safe Council is a great ally and Dallas shared they have found \$48,000 they can allocate to the PBA (expect the agreement in Jan or Feb) which is wonderful! In less inspiring news, Prop 4 funding is delayed in its rollout, so we cannot apply for the grants we expected to be applying for by now. Staff are working full-time on a multitude of projects, from a cleanup of BLM lands to Concow fuels reduction to Upper Butte and Humbug Rd implementation design to kicking off the North Complex Meadows project on the Middle Fork of the Feather. On the ag side, we are continuing to work on the rangeland conservation and improvement project in South County with Alex Palmerlee, but it has hit some ownership-related funding snags. Despite the unwelcome uncertainty on almost all funding fronts, we are in a better position than many RCDs right now thanks to our diversification, our strong relationships, and a little luck.

8. PARTNERS' REPORTS (5-minute limit per group)

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – n/p
- b) Butte County departments – n/p
- c) Community groups – n/p

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

- Dave brought up the ongoing revisions and refinements to the BCRCO Policies and Procedures, which the BOD hasn't addressed in a while. Now that Allevity has produced its new edition of its employee handbook, BOD is willing to take the matter back up. Colleen suggested that she, Thad and Cheryl get together and look at the pros and cons of bringing all employment (payroll, HR etc.) in-house. Dave observed that we would need to carefully look at the workers' comp side because Allevity probably gets a better rate than a small RCD might get if we go independent. Also, how (if at all) would it affect our liability insurance? That said, Dave agreed it needs to be looked at. In conclusion, Dave asked that DM look at Section 2 (covering employees) and see if there was an easy way to harmonize it with the Allevity handbook; he also asked staff review meetings minutes to see when Section 1 was last revised; if it hasn't been recently revised, BOD should review and re-approve it

Thad reminded Directors the time of year is coming up for their annual State of CA ethics re-training. (If a Director has already taken it for a different District s/he may serve on the board of, such a school district, that is adequate; please provide your certificate.)

Dave noted next month is the time for annual nominations for Director roles (not new Directors, but new roles such as

chair, vice chair etc., for existing Directors).

Colleen thanked the staff for their work, Thad thanked the BOD for their strong leadership. Dave wished all the staff a Merry Christmas and happy new year.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:15 am

***NOTE:** The Butte County Resource 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: bcrcd@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