



BOARD OF DIRECTORS Agenda

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020 Time: 9:00 AM

Location: No physical location

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **the Butte County Resource Conservation District will be closing the April 16, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting to members of the public and nonessential District staff.** Additionally, members of the Board of Directors are allowed to attend the meeting via teleconference and to the same extent as if they were present.

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the Board meeting in the following ways:

1. Remote Viewing

<https://zoom.us/j/321411651> (Meeting ID: 321 411 651)

OR use One tap mobile: +16699006833, then enter 321411651#

2. Public Comment

Public Comment can also be submitted anytime via email at bcrcd@carcd.org. Every effort will be made to provide Board Members with your comments before the agenda item is heard.

Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting

1) CALL TO ORDER – Dave Lee, President

2) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Directors Dave Lee, John Christofferson, Allen Harthorn, Colleen Hatfield; Associate Director Mike Crump; guests Taylor Nilsson (BCFSC) and Patrick Farrar; NRCS District Conservationist Dan Taverner; staff Thad Walker, Tim Keeseey, Amanda Chaney, Wolfy Rougle; AmeriCorps member Shepard Smith

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 agendize 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: Project Updates (see board packet).

6) ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of the minutes of the BOD meeting held 3-26, 2020 – John moved to approve, Allen seconded, motion passed unanimously
- b) Review and Approve Outstanding Bills – Colleen Hatfield – Colleen recommended we not pay this month’s bookkeeper bill because we did not receive services as expected this month. Monthly operating expenses are about \$24K and bank balance seems to be rising back to a sustainable plateau of around \$50K. City of Chico invoices should be paid next week. A \$1000 payment from AFF was received for work done 3/7. Allen motioned to pay all bills besides the bookkeeper’s, John seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- c) Audit Update- Colleen Hatfield – No action needed
- d) Review and approval of Financials/ Budget- Colleen Hatfield – Formal approval of budget is not necessary at this time, but developing a budget well in advance of fiscal year start, as we’re doing, is important for audits among other things. Colleen asked that the budget be brought back for a longer discussion at the May meeting. We discussed how the budget is just an estimate or projection based on the projects we know we have. This is why the staff hours taper off toward the end of the fiscal year (because some projects will sunset between now and then). In practice, we expect to secure new projects to replace those that will fall away, but future or speculative projects are not included in the budget.
- e) District Manager Discussion- Colleen Hatfield – Colleen noted that Butte County RCD’s board does more administrative heavy lifting than most RCD boards and proposed an interim district manager be designated. This discussion was moved to closed session.
- f) Big Chico Creek Forest Health Restoration Project CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration(IS/MND) and Notice of Intent (NOI) - Tim Keesey – A few adjustments to mitigations were made: “flag and avoid” biological resources changed to “avoid,” cultural resources mitigation is “avoid ground disturbance” with close coordination with Mechoopda tribe; Rx fire mitigations were simplified; elder branches that are dead and/or less than 1” diameter can be trimmed between November and spring. No significant impacts remaining after mitigations.
- g) Cal Fire Forestry Assistance Grant – Wolfy Rougle – Wolfy explained that staff had looked at a couple potential applications for this grant (but we can only submit one). One was an oak woodland restoration project in the Camp Fire footprint to help multiple small landowners; another (brought up by Eli Goodsell) was to use the funding in Big Chico Creek Canyon for the area we just completed CEQA on. This aligns slightly less perfectly with the stated purpose of the funding source, but is still applicable, and would make implementation much easier for our first large scale multiyear forest health project. John moved, Allen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- h) USFS-PNF-FRRD Blanket Confidentiality Agreement for Archaeological Information –Wolfy Rougle – We currently sign confidentiality agreements with the PNF on a project by project basis; this blanket agreement would streamline that process. Tim said he didn’t see a downside. John moved to accept and sign the agreement, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- i) Letter of Support for Paradise Recreation and Park District (PRPD)- CA Recreational Trails and Greenways grant application- would construct a 20-mile loop trail from Magalia to Paradise Lake – Thad Walker – PRRD is starting to manage PID lands for tourism and recreation, on behalf of PID, and has submitted a large grant proposal for an interconnected network of trails that would also improve emergency access and has asked for a letter of support from RCD Board. John moved to have Dave sign the LOS; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- j) Car insurance match requested for Shepard Smith – Shepard Smith – Shepard is considered essential personnel because he supports timber restoration activities, and much of the work we ask him to do require him to travel, but his family’s insurance package does not meet the coverage minimums required by SNAP (Sierra Nevada Americorps Program), his employer of record. Shepard asks that the RCD cover all or part of the needed premium for him to get his own, separate insurance (benefitting only him, not his family members) on his own truck. This would facilitate his work for the next 5 1/2 months. (Tabled from last meeting.) John moved that the Board pay half the invoice and leave Shepard responsible for the other half.

Shepard said that would work. Allen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- k) Agreement with Water Quality Control Board for Dixie Road Project – Thad Walker – (Tabled from last meeting) Water Board is still working on how they can convey funds to us for the Dixie Road project so there is no agreement before the board right now. At this time it appears the \$775K project will need to be funded in 2 separate parts, one for \$500,000 (which would allow us to at least proceed with all environmental review) and one for the remaining \$275,000 (which we would need to have secured before finalizing/accepting bids for implementation). During all this discussion, WB have never brought up the idea of reducing the total \$ amount. Item tabled for another year. Thad’s time for working on this is covered under the initial agreement letter, received several months ago, and is billable. The RCD will put out a public bid for the actual implementation side, but technical assistance will be provided by PWA as a professional consultant; such services are not subject to public bidding or prevailing wage rules. Mike Crump observed that if PWA assists us with creating the bid package and other project design, they cannot work with any future contractor who responds to the bid. Thad confirmed this.
- l) Agreement with Pacific Watershed and Associates for Dixie Road Project – Thad Walker (Tabled from last meeting) – Tabled until next meeting
- m) Next Meeting of BCRCD BOD- Thursday May 21st @ 9 AM. At this time we expect it will also be a remote meeting.

7) RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

a) Update – See staff updates in BOD packet – Thad: Powellton Rd agreement approval has been bumped back to May 28 BOS meeting. Brayton Orchard removal project (State Parks) is being reviewed and revised, so expect an agreement later. Dome Trail project is finished and photodocumentation has been submitted to USFS, but it’s unclear whether inspection will actually take place (due to COVID). John advised USFS should not be paying us our final payment (thus obligating us to pay the subcontractors) until final inspection has taken place. Shepard: Our CalRecycle application, written by him, to clean-up a farm/ranch parcel was awarded for the full amount of \$49K and change – thanks Shepard for initiating this program for us. Wolfy: She will (pre-)apply for up to three WCB grants to fund restoration projects around the county (expected budgets range from \$750,000-\$3M). Tim will overnight the CEQA document to the State Clearinghouse (SCH), but if SCH delays processing of the document, that will prolong the 30d comment period which might necessitate postponing next BOD meeting. Amanda: Her projects are up to date and she is scheduling follow-up testing for the irrigators who worked with her. Allen asked her what kind of irrigators she works with; she works primarily with walnut and almond growers. Allen expressed interest in working with rice growers in the future to do more riparian/floodplain restoration along Butte Creek and tributaries/distributaries. Tracy McReynolds of CDFW has said that the section from 162 up to 99 bridge is ripe for restoration to improve feeding opportunities for young fish and to implement levee setbacks long identified as needed. Allen and Shepard have worked together to identify a couple of landowners in Butte Creek with creek banks severely damaged by Camp Fire; Shepard will help us assist these landowners through the BCFSC RAC (“Handbook”) grant.

8) PARTNERS’ REPORTS (5 minute limit per group)

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Dan reminded staff to let him know if they do travel to the office; he needs to report to USDA how many people are in the office daily. Dan is working with Tim to make sure that landowners dropped by EFRP are picked up by EQIP. RCD staff and contractors will do the fieldwork; NRCS staff will do the project entry into the NRCS system.
- b) Butte County departments – None
- c) Community groups and agencies – BCFSC – All community meetings are on hold and some fuels reduction projects are on hold, but Forest Ranch, Coutelenc, Hupp-Coutelenc, and one other project are proceeding right now.

9) CLOSED SESSION – Directors only

- a) Personnel Discussion

10) BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

11) 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.*

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