



"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, July 21, 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/84342212526?pwd=eTZuQzJSV3IDRlcyYWJkcjhtWm1mdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 4221 2526

Passcode: 704514

Join via phone +1 408 638 0968

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President, 9:04 am

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Dave Lee; vice Chair Allen Harthorn; Directors John Christofferson and Colleen Hatfield; Associate Director Mike Crump; District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Wolfy Roulge and Faith Churchill

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 BCRCB 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 BCRC Resolution 01202022 Extension
- b) Review and approval of the minutes of the BOD meeting held on 6/16/2022

Allen moved, John seconded to accept all items on the consent agenda; motion passed unanimously.

5. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield – Colleen explained the new structure and rhythm for the Board Reports Cheryl the bookkeeper is now creating monthly. We received a \$5,108 check from CARCD very recently for EFRP, will cover some Evan Watson invoices among other things. ESRI will expand our conservation-discounted subscription to provide an ArcGIS seat for new hire Faith. Audits: No positive responses yet to our RFP. Colleen intends to follow up with 2-3 of the most highly recommended CPAs and ask why they did not respond, and will also reach out to County assessor to see if they have advice on securing an auditor. Allen moved, John seconded approve the financials; motion passed unanimously.
- b) Conflict of Interest Policy Review -John Christofferson and Thad Walker – John received a letter from County Counsel Brad Stevens. It said every 2 years we must review our conflict of interest policy and find that either it needs no revision, or it needed revision and we revised it. Thad shared the Board's most recently reviewed and adopted policy, with its Appendix A listing the disclosure categories. It closely mirrors Form 700, the State's standard conflict of interest disclosure form. The policy applies to the DM and all Directors, not staff. John moved BCRC reply to County Counsel that we have reviewed our conflict of interest policy and found it does not require revision. Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- c) 2022/ 2023 BCRC Operating Budget Review -Colleen Hatfield, Thad Walker, and Wolfy Rougle – To qualify for DOC funding, an increasingly detailed and extensive budgeting process will be required. Working closely with Cheryl to align our budget to QuickBooks categories, we are on a good track to meet DOC requirements and best practices with the budget we have already been using the past 2-3 years. Year over year, overhead has increased slightly with the increase in staff (biggest % increase has been insurance) but by far the biggest change has been the project-driven budget we manage. Now it's over \$3M. We do need to continue to maintain a balance between grant-funded and fee-for-service income, and the new budget (with new custom QBO categories) is designed to help the BOD see that distinction. John moved to approve the budget; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- d) Agreement for CEQA services for Butte County Fire Safe Council - Wolfy Rougle - From time to time, we are approached by other organizations seeking CEQA services on a contract basis. Staff carefully reviews these requests and only pursues those planning projects where a conservation objective can be achieved while keeping risk to resources, as well as BCRC's liability exposure as a lead agency, are very low. This is one such project and qualifies for a notice of exemption (NOE). Allen moved to sign the agreement; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously
- e) Agreement for CEQA services for Mechoopda Indian Tribe - Wolfy Rougle – This is another project similar to the one with Butte County FSC above, but was tabled due to not having received agreement from the partner yet.
- f) Contract to Chico State Enterprises for eDNA analysis for Upper Butte Creek - Wolfy Rougle – Dr. Keller's lab and students will conduct the analysis of samples BCRC staff will collect. John moved to approve the contract, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously

- g) Advance request for RFFC-962 grant through SNC - Wolfy Rougle – Allen moved to have Dave sign the \$108,000 advance and set up a separate, interest-bearing account; John seconded; motion passed unanimously
- h) Update on Cottonwood Easement following Nelson Fire-Wolfy Rougle – According to CAL FIRE GIS data, the fire burned 12.5 ac (2.1%) of the conservation area. Wolfy provided a map and will be on the lookout for any negative or positive effects of fire or suppression when she conducts the photomonitoring visit in August. Informational only.
- i) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

6. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- a) Staff Updates – Thad introduced Faith Churchill, the new Shared Stewardship Coordinator trainee who has been jumping in on Upper Butte Creek already helping with forestry stand exams, GIS analysis, and NEPA document synthesis.

For the Jonesville Sno-Park (part of the Colby Mtn Rec Area project), we are working with FS to create a Great American Outdoors Act application, which required an on-the-ground survey Thad contracted with Gilbert Engineering to do; it should be finished by end of August and will likely be reimbursed by State Parks through the Hillsliders' state grant for maintaining the sno-park and grooming the roads. John asked who will prepare the engineer's estimate and the costs of treatment. Thad responded these would be paid for later, through the grant, using the RFP process. If all goes well, implementation will happen in 2024. Thad also shared that CARCD's executive director, Karen Buhr, has stepped down.

Wolfy shared that the PBA has received 2 new infusions of funds through the Forest Health/Wildfire Resilience Block Grant cycle – bringing the total amount of PBA funding up to \$648,000 through Mar 31, 2026. That's a burn rate of over \$14,000/month! This includes \$45,000 total for equipment. Dave asked if prescribed fire could be a good option for controlling weeds and promoting healthier pasture growth at the Cottonwood easement. Wolfy replied yes, such fire would usually be applied in mid May to mid June, as soon as animals are removed but before star thistle and medusahead set seed. If the landowner wants it, it can happen and we can use PBA funds to make it happen!

NRCS is looking to send us another ~\$90,000 to pay our staff to provide technical assistance, but in a novel and welcome twist, these TA/planning dollars would not be tied to required EQIP applications. Rather, we would implement the projects we plan using State money. John asked if this funding could be used to spray the thick live oak and other regrowth in the Bear Fire footprint. The answer is yes; this money can be used for any treatment that meets the landowner's objective. We have a deep backlog of landowners for whom we've already prepared a forest management plan but who haven't gotten EQIP funding. They will be first in line for this RFFC money.

Staff reported Concow Resilience Project is going well and Red Mountain Resources is great to work with and an example of the new generation of fuels management companies we expect to be working with more as we take on projects like the RFFC.

Butte Creek House – We had a meeting with CDFW last week where we briefed them on the plan to implement a combination of post-assisted log structures/beaver dam analogues and a channel fill strategy to remediate the meadow's more serious hydrological function problems (i.e. the creek is not currently following valley low). Not all CDFW staff are comfortable with channel fill, so the next step toward consensus will be a field trip to Humbug Valley where channel fill has been successful. The overall vision/strategy for BCH is to disconnect the deeper pools and the segments that are head-cutting, and restore overland multi-channel flow.

Upper Butte Creek: Butte County Public Works has agreed in principle to the reroute of Humbug Summit Rd around the "Willow Creek West" meadow. We have already completed a botany survey on this meadow restoration/road realignment project, will complete archaeology soon, and are developing an agreement for a meadow restoration plan to be written.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

b) Butte County departments

c) Community groups and agencies – FOBC – Wearing his FOBC hat, Allen announced 21,000 fish returned in 2021 but over 19,000 of them died before spawning because the water got too hot. He is about to start working on a proposal to NOAA to restore salmon passage all the way up to Butte Meadows.

8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

9. 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