



"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, October 26, 2023

Time: 8:00 AM

**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 – 8:00 am

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Dave Lee, Directors Andrew Sohnrey and Samantha Lewis, Treasurer Colleen Hatfield, District Manager Thad Walker, Staff Wolfy Rougle, Ben Converse, Cameron Musser; guests Mike Marvier and Joe Williamson. Joe is a 400-acre landowner adjacent to Turkey Tail Farm in Yankee Hill and also an arborist an LTO for North Fork Enterprises, able to assist with mastication, brush removal etc. He was interested both in programs he might benefit from as a landowner and also in opportunities to partner with BCRC as a contractor. jwilliamson@northforkent.com, (530) 990-4792.

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)) – DM Walker introduced a revision related to the Concow Resilience Project. USFS would like to burn the piles fairly immediately this fall to protect the Concow community, but they will not go in and burn until the hazard trees are removed. Given the short burn windows and the hazardous nature of the fuels, staff would like to advance a contract for hazard tree removal (to Summitt Forests) for 76 acres of hazard tree removal and piling so the pile burning can go forward ASAP. Summitt was the only eligible bidder. Colleen moved to add the item to the agenda and approve the contract with Summitt Forests, Samantha seconded, motion passed unanimously.

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 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 BOD meeting held on 9/21/2023. Samantha moved to approve the minutes, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield – The negative revenue shown in the past month is a function of how many of our vendors bill us monthly on projects that we can only bill to funders quarterly. Andy moved to accept the financials, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously. Colleen has asked staff to create a projection of incoming grants and revenue going out about 3 years so Board can get a good picture of the District’s sustained work.
- b) Open Mechanics Bank Account for Advance Payment Request for Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program -Wolfy Rougle – Colleen moved that BCRC D open a new interest-bearing account dedicated exclusively for the advance payment(s) for the RFFCP-962 grant. Signers would be David Lee and Colleen Hatfield. Samantha seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.
- c) Authorization of budgeted funds and committee members for vehicle and trailer purchase- Thad Walker – Thad asked for Board approval for about \$12,000 for a 12-16 ft. trailer (would be expensed 100% to our existing PBA-CARCD grant) and a lightly used 4WD truck similar to an F-150 for about \$40,000 (upper limit \$50,000). Truck selection committee: Andy Sohnrey, Dave Lee, Thad. Colleen moved to give the committee authority to go ahead and purchase the truck and trailer. Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- d) Revised Grant Agreement with Point Blue for Crane Valley Meadow Restoration Project -Thad Walker – item dropped because agreement language not ready yet. Work won’t move forward until spring so item is not urgent.
- e) Revised Agreement D2113514 Butte Creek Fire Post-Fire Recovery Project with California State Water Resources Control Board -Thad Walker – Doing culvert replacement, road contouring and other work on the non-paved portion of Centerville Rd. Original agreement stated work would finish in June 2024; this amendment would extend it to Dec 31, 2024. Samantha moved to approve the revised amendment, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- f) Concow Resilience Phase 3, Agreement Amendment with Summit Forests Inc. -Ben Converse – We contracted with Summitt to do oak release around Unit 20, plus fireline around it. This amendment would add an additional 1.8 miles of fireline around unit 15 so it can be underburned this winter. The rate would be the same as fireline construction in Unit 20, i.e. about \$13,000/mile. Samantha moved to approve this amendment/change order; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- g) Small Forest Landowner Assistance Program (SFLAP), Berry Creek Contract Amendment, John Behrend Custom Logging - Cameron Musser – When the contractor originally submitted the bid, it was “uncannily low” (the next highest bid was 6x higher). After selecting the contractor and walking each unit with him to help him better understand the scope of work, BCRC D chose to

voluntarily give the contractor the opportunity to revise the budget. Timber harvest notice emergencies have all been filed and work (which is time-sensitive) can proceed within a week. The RPF and the contractor worked together to increase the budget from about \$111,000 to \$299,000 – still much lower than the next lowest bid received, which was about \$700,000. Rather than a contract amendment, staff and board decided to pursue this change through the change order process. Therefore, no vote needed.

- h) NOE for Burns Blossom Farm project (Point Blue agreement) - Wolfy Rougle – Remove language “around the farm edge” since some of the hedgerow will be interior. Colleen moved to approve, Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- i) NOE for Turkey Tail Farm project (Point Blue agreement) - Wolfy Rougle – Colleen moved to approve, Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- j) NOE for Mechoopda, Upper Clear Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project (Point Blue agreement) -Wolfy Rougle - Andy moved to approve, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- k) NOE for Alex Palmerlee/Far View Ranch project (Point Blue agreement) - Wolfy Rougle – Colleen moved to approve, Samantha seconded, to approve.
- l) Agreement with Stantec for vernal pool branchiopod surveys at Cottonwood Conservation Area- Wolfy Rougle – Consultant was the only qualified bidder and CalTrans has accepted their price. Consultant proposed 4 alterations to the standard agreement, which the Board reviewed. Samantha voted to sign the contract without any of the edits accepted. If Stantec refuses that offer, BCRCDC can have a lawyer review the changes and bring the item back on Nov 16th. Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- m) Agreement with Deer Creek Resources, Personnel Support for Incident Management Team during CAL-TREX events. -Thad and Wolfy – Samantha moved, Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 8:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville,

CARCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -\

7. STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates – District Manager search: The Morrison headhunting fee turned out to be \$25,000, which was more than expected. Andy suggested using unpaid LinkedIn and unpaid Indeed. Colleen urged us to think of how to do outreach to government agencies (pay to post on CASDA job board). It’s already posted on Conservation Job Board. Samantha suggested we forward it to both local and national Farm Bureau.

Sac Valley Regional Meeting – Tues Nov 14 – cost is \$25, directors are encouraged to attend, there will be the regional speak-off!

Faith, Wolfy and Thad attended the LNF’s “Partnerships in Practice” symposium full-day workshop in Susanville and came away with a thorough understanding of how LNF manages and prioritizes its “program of work” in terms of NEPA projects. Next iteration (probably next spring) will cover how LNF manages and prioritizes its “program of work” in terms of implementation projects – just in time for us to pivot into implementation on the Upper Butte Creek project.

TREX- First training weekend, at Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, was very successful with 60+ local people completing the pack test and RT-130 (annual refresher for basic fireline qualifications)

plus a full weekend of instruction and discussion around fire weather, fuels moisture, firing basics to achieve ecological objectives, pre- and post-fire monitoring and landscape-scale fire ecology. The weekend really lived up to the TREX motto that everyone has something to learn about fire and everyone has something to teach. The second weekend will be at Maple Creek Ranch Tree Farm on Cohasset on Nov 4-5.

In the meantime, the PBA has several pile and broadcast burns planned under the leadership of our new coordinator, David Mitchell, so look for our good smoke in the air from Stringtown to Forest Ranch!

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Engineering contract – In the past, there wasn't enough money or support from NRCS to support a full technician, and it wasn't a viable cycle. To alleviate this, Thad and Dan propose NRCS would be funding BCRCD to subcontract directly to an existing firm such as Durham Pump. BCRCD can contract a lot faster than NRCS can and BCRCD is excited to get back into the business of helping farmers improve their irrigation situations.
- b) Butte County departments - None
- c) Community groups - None

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

10. CLOSED SESSION

Legal and Employee Matters – No action taken.

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.*

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