

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA**

**Date: Thursday January 17th**  
**Time: 9:00 AM**

**Location:** 202 Mira Loma Dr., Truckee Conference Room, Oroville, CA 95965

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** – Colleen Hatfield, Vice-Chair
- 2) **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Colleen Hatfield, Vice-Chair
  - Present:
  - Mike Felkins, Director
  - Colleen Felkins, Director/Vice-Chair (Acting Chair for today)
  - John Christofferson, Director
  - Tim Keeseey, staff
  - Thad Walker, staff
  - Wolfy Rougle, staff
  - Dan Taverner, NRCS District Conservationist
  - Guests:*
  - Chester Anderson, Western Shasta RCD
  - Timmarie Hamill, California Urban Streams Alliance, “The Stream Team”
- 3) **REVISIONS TO AGENDA** (only emergency situations requiring the need to take immediate
  - i) 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 BCRCD 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) **ACTION ITEMS** – Colleen Hatfield, Vice-Chair
  - a) **Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held December 20th, 2018** – John moved to approve with certain spelling corrections, Felkins seconded, motion passed.
  - b) **Review and Approve Outstanding Bills:** Christofferson motioned, Felkins seconded; approved
  - c) **Bookkeeper report** – Director Hatfield. Board reviewed documents from bookkeeper. Felkins asked that in future, receivables invoiced but not received by 12/31/18 be expressed as an asset. Director Hatfield has requested a meeting with Karen and will report back in greater detail next month. Goals is to receive a P&L report every month. **Cottonwood:** Colleen also shared the quarterly Cetera report from the Cottonwood easement endowment. Mike Felkins asked that

this endowment be reflected on the balance sheet as an asset. Tim Keesey said that this year BCRCD needs to do a grazing analysis study. Brachiopod study needs to be conducted in 2022. Tim creates an annual report about Cottonwood (biological as well as financial) and submits it to CalTrans. Easement started in 2008.

- d) **Insurance claim update and audit** – Director Hatfield John reports that Bill Connelly said County Auditor-Controller is unwilling to do the audit, but John wants to follow up with Teeter (and Colleen can follow up with Ritter) in hopes of swaying County to conduct an audit, sparing the BCRCD at least \$5000 in private auditing fees. It will likely be over a month before we know whether County can do the audit. Chester Anderson noted that whether BCRCD needs to publicly advertise a request for bids for auditing depends on Board’s own P&Ps (which the Board can also certainly vote to circumvent), but the best bet is to send out a request to the list of potential auditors Chester provided, with a request to have all 5 years audited at once. John suggested we send a letter to each of the auditors identified by Mike Felkins and Chester Anderson. Colleen said she would do this, first creating a draft letter and sending it out to Board for comments.
- e) **Continuing review and reply to LAFCo Administrative review and changes to Section 1 of policies and procedures** – Director Christofferson responded to Jill Broderson at LAFCo re administrative review draft, suggesting changes. Jill responded, thanking John for changes, and draft document was made available for review today, 1/17/19. Comment period ends 2/5/19. LAFCo will hold public hearing to consider the changes in BoS chambers on Thursday, 2/7. Accepting LAFCo’s recommendation that BCRCD annex the Vina portion of Butte County would come with LAFCo fees (c. \$1500) as well as state fees (c. \$300). LAFCo can waive its own fees but can’t waive state fees. Thad Walker observed it would be equally or more worthwhile to look at annexation for the incorporated areas of the county. John said that, since annexation of the Vina area was a LAFCo recommendation, he will look into pursuing it and will report back next month.
- f) **Openings on BCFSC board** – Tim Keesey mentioned Butte Fire Safe Council has board vacancies, and invited any BCRCD board members to apply if they are interested.
- g) **W9 request from Chico** – Director Hatfield – **Chico now has the W9 forms they need.**
- h) **Draft resolution for DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant** – Wolfy Rougle. John raised concerns about both the need for an audit in case the grant is awarded and also whether RCD has the funds to pay for the grant to be written. Mike proposed that the \$1500 it would cost the RCD to invest in this grant is an excellent investment. Chester spoke to the excellent value provided by this program, saying “most of the conservation work that’s been done in the last ten years is due to this program” and that he tends to agree a smaller scale (with partnerships) is valuable. Timmarie Hamill suggested that DOC might be looking to award more money to grants covering larger areas than just Butte County. Wolfy cited a Sierra Institute report, commissioned by the DOC to review the effectiveness of its own programs, which found that watershed coordinators are seldom effective at areas much larger than the one BCRCD proposes. Timmarie has long experience working with SWQCB and stormwater management. She wants to support and be supported through the grant application. The Stream Team’s strengths are in citizen science, mobilizing volunteers, bioassessment and project evaluation.

John motioned that the board hold a special meeting at 9 am at USDA Service Center to discuss signing a resolution of support for the DOC Watershed Coordinator grant. Colleen seconded, motion passed.

- i) **Granite Basin NEPA/CEQA Update, review job status report** – Thad Walker, Tim Keesey – Tim is working on Proposed Action, Purpose and Need. Original plan was to present this at FRRD Collaborative meeting, but due to federal furlough it’s unclear whether this meeting will take place. Hydrologist out of Supervisor’s office in Quincy would prefer the PAPN propose road decommissioning (possibly including RTT conversions), currently not included in the project. But due to Camp Fire, USFS has not been able to look at these roads in detail. More support for decommissioning could appear during scoping.... But, at the end of the day it’s the County’s decision whether to add road decommissioning into the scope, because the County is funding the project. USFS wants to add this to the Proposed Action document but not fund it.

It's unclear how much the addition of decommissioning would add to the cost because it's unclear whether any environmental analysis on decommissioning has been done or needs to be done, and if so by whom.

- j) **North County Road Inventory –Agreements & Contracts – review job status reports** – staff Has been on hold because the area has been inaccessible post-fire, but inventory work will resume next week.
- k) **2018 OHMVR Planning Grant update** – Thad Walker was able to attend grant workshop in Redding and meet current grant administrator for our area, get some of his questions answered. BCRC's Table 2 report was singled out at OHVMR presentation as an example of good collaborative work. Thad has meetings next week scheduled with County, OHV user groups, etc.
- l) **Cal Fire, CEQA Work for Fuels Reduction Projects “Nelson Project” contract-** Keesey – On track, no issues/concerns.
- m) **Weed management area report.** Wolfy Rouble – WMA needs to meet by Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> to stay eligible for grants; Wolfy will meet with Rob Hill 1/22 to schedule a timely meeting.
- n) **Continuing upgrade of BCRC's webpage** –staff – Board meeting agendas/minutes are all on the website now, website is well stocked as a post-fire resource for landowners, and website and social media are reinforcing each other. John asked if it would be a good idea to place project budgets on the website. Thad will look at other RCDs around the state and see what level of budgetary detail they provide on their websites. Goal for this month: Get all project descriptions and scopes on the website (with overall funding).
- o) **Review NRCS reimbursement Invoice** – Signature needed; Colleen signed it.
- p) **Review Fee For Service Rates and 2019 Budget** – Thad Walker – On track. Budget can be discussed more at special meeting on Tuesday as it is related to the Watershed Coordinator grant.
- q) **Next general meeting date February 21st, 2019 at 202 Mira Loma Drive Oroville at 9:00am**

## 6) RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- a) NRCS Agreement – Dan Taverner – NRCS knows it will be working for at least another 2 weeks, but after that, funds may run out unless government reopens. In other words, NRCS has been able to work through the shutdown thus far, but not because it is considered essential, rather because it had reserves. Last week, Jay the engineer received stock water training and it's hoped that Jay can work to help ranchers who lost their water from the Miocene Canal. Unfortunately, Jay's LincPass has been delayed by federal shutdown. NRCS has long list of potential landowners who want help post-fire, but it's unclear when work can begin. First, hazard trees may need to be removed through Timber/Biomass Task Force (FEMA wants each tree marked and tracked if it is removed). Dan recalled his experience with Katrina debris removal – similar to now, the process was slow because each trailerload of debris needed to be numbered and tracked. Staffing levels update: NRCS has flown the GS-9/11 soil conservationist position but the selected applicant did not accept.

Dan requested RCD help request more resources from Area/State NRCS. Currently, Butte District NRCS is funding over \$2M in projects – in the top 10 in the state – with one of the smallest staffs.
- b) Funding opportunities – DOC hours are successfully spent by grant deadline! Colleen asked Tim to write up a description of how RCD successfully leveraged those funds, to share with the DOC and others. Tablets and mapping accessories will be purchased 1/18. Remaining DOC deliverable is for Jay to conduct an IWM workshop in February. Tim and Dan agreed that Scott from Susanville or Danny from Yuba City would be good NRCS resources to request to assist Jay with this.
- c) Other Projects – SWEEP - \$25,000 one-time grant – Jay will do the work outlined in the grant agreement. Thad has discussed raising money for tree planting and restoration work with Point

Blue, One Tree Planted, Ten Tree, and House of Marley. Dan mentioned a conversation with a tribal liaison who offered a work crew to work on reforestation and other restoration projects. Wattle distribution – Even with limited staff time, RCD has mobilized volunteers and given away thousands of feet of wattle. Publicity has been good (TV, Newspapers, and more) and has helped RCD build trust and knowledge with landowners. Dan said that if RCD hadn't been available to take "ownership" of these orphaned wattles, they would have never gotten into landowners' hands. We will soon summarize all the feet of wattles/other metrics given away and create a press release about it.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) (see above)
- b) Chester Anderson – WSRCD – Experiences with Carr Fire and lessons learned. Regional Water Board learned a lot from their collaboration with WSRCD post-Carr Fire – their prescription for restoration was "665 feet on either side of a stream, moderate and severe burn areas." (Later, they found that moderate burn areas were re-germinating on their own, so Chester recommends adjusting that to just Severe Burn areas.) Together, the two organizations identified 1640 high-priority acres, all private property, so many ownerships that gaining ROE agreements took 1 person full-time for 2-3 months. Access agreements are now in place for over 1200 acres of the 1640 acres, but the lesson learned is the process was more cumbersome than expected, and most of the erosion happens in the first storm so the process took too long. The Carr Fire was in July. WSRCD had 300 acres treated by 1/17/19. Most of the project area is quite inaccessible and thus will be addressed by 4 CCC crews (40 ppl total) and a hydroseeder. 12 people are working on this grant at WSRCD.

Thus, for Camp Fire, RWQCB is now focusing the scope of projects to exclude private lands (unclear if will include private roads -RCD hopes so as some private roads are among the biggest offenders), as well as to exclude hydroseeding because we are entering the part of the year when storms are intense. (Chester said the best seed they used was a sterile wheat(-rye?) hybrid and would be happy to share their recipes with BCRCD if hydroseeding or other seeding comes back on the table.) Window for hydroseeding in any case closes in a couple of months.

Back to WSRCD strategy: Next steps: In the dry season, they will stage rice straw (whole bales) onto lands as time permits. Then, just before rains, they will return to seed the lands and scatter the bales over the seed. Total project cost was \$8.5 M between State and FEMA funding. Chester knows the erosion will continue over several years. A key area to focus on is a 30% slope that burned severely. Protecting that slope is key to protecting midslope roads.

Chester recommends BCRCD focus on sediment shedding from roads and on culverts that need to be resized/replaced/repared, much like what BCRCD heard from Clint of RWQCB a couple of weeks ago. Thad and Tim reported on meeting with RWQCB/CalOES yesterday: "any beneficial use" for funding is on the table, including addressing roads, sedimentation into Concow Resvr, and RR infrastructure around Pulga.

Timmarie mentioned that her team is measuring WQ and after the first flush saw really surprising results in and around Butte Creek and tributaries, e.g. pH as low as 2, DO as low as 4, 5. Also, post-fire you can really see how much debris there is in the ravines.

- c) Butte County departments - none
- d) Community groups and agencies – John asked whether we should approach Town of Paradise and ask for the same kind of letter of request for help that Chico issued. Board and staff agreed it would be better to get a blanket agreement (e.g., master services agreement) or even an annexation rather than moving project-by-project.

**8) CLOSED SESSION – Directors only**

- a) Continuing Personnel Discussion

b) Discussion – Litigation

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](mailto: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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