



"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 * bcrcd@carcd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Date: Thursday, August 19th, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

**Location: Klamath Conference Room
202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA 95965**

Or Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83313065640?pwd=OGRzUy9mVW12SE91RU1pRFJJaHZCUT09>

Meeting ID: 833 1306 5640

Passcode: 490704

Join via phone +1 408 638 0968

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President
- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Dave Lee, Chairman; Allen Harthorn, vice chair; Colleen Hatfield, treasurer; John Christofferson, Director; Mike Crump, Associate Director; Thad Walker, district manager; Wolfy Rougle, staff; Kimberly Romero, AmeriCorps member.
- 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)) – Added review of accts payable which had been left off accidentally

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 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.

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 7/20/2021 – On action item 6c – “Director Harthorn made a motion to approve minutes” should read instead “...to approve accounts payable”. On item e, 7th line down, “Director Christoffers” to “Christofferson” and on last line on that item, “Hatfield” should also be corrected. In item f, “Director Harthorn” should also be spellchecked. With those revisions, John moved to approve the minutes, Allen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- b) Review and approval of accounts payable – Colleen. The new bookkeeper, Cheryl, is working out well and now provides valuable monthly update of bank acct summaries. Line items: Now that FY 21-22 budget is complete, CARCD annual dues have been calculated (at about \$900) and can be paid. QuickBooks now offers a “budget to actual” feature that will allow Board and staff to track how budget predictions are working out in reality. Watson invoice was moved “from the grays” to be paid as soon as funder payment is received. Allen moved to accept the financials; John seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- c) Review of Grant Agreement with California Association of Resource Conservation Districts for Monarch Project Habitat Project -Thad Walker – A small, mostly pas-through agreement for planting materials to help a Valley landowner plant monarch butterfly food plants, e.g. milkweed. Carrie Wendt of Point Blue will be managing the project. Colleen moved to sign the agreement, John and Allen competed to second it; motion passed unanimously
- d) Review of Grant Agreement with Wildlife Conservation Board for Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project- Thad Walker/ Wolfy Rougle. This is the \$1.4 million grant to fund forest health planning in Upper Butte Creek. Although the Dixie Fire has burned about a third of the project area, in some ways the project is more needed than ever. Forest closure on the Lassen goes through the end of November, but at least planning and strategy can commence. WCB understands the situation and will work with us given the FS’ constrained ability to focus on planning projects right now. This project is separate from the Butte Creek House WCB grant, which is further upstream at the headwaters of Butte Creek. John noted that with Dixie Fire recovery (and future fires), numerous agencies will converge on the area and offer grants and programs; RCD will need to be strategic in how it takes them on and how it paces itself. Allen noted that contingency clauses in grant agreements are a good opportunity to address unexpected (e.g. wildfire-driven) changes in scope or timing. Colleen noted that agencies’ “spend it or lose it” budgetary arrangements often work counter to getting the right work done at the right time, and BCRCDC can act as a messenger to State decision-makers about this type of structural issue. John moved to accept the grant agreement, Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- e) Review of Grant Agreement with Sierra Nevada Conservancy for Concow Resilience -Wolfy Rougle. The project has been in development since 2019 via grant SNC-929 (planning); the agreement before the board today is the implementation grant (SNC-1312). RCD and FRRD have already worked together to finish the first SPA (Supplemental Project Agreement) developed under our new 2-forest Master Stewardship Agreement and should be able to hit the ground running as soon as a forester is hired. (SPA is sitting at USFS Grants and Agreements now; could be before BCRCDC for signature next month.) FS is even putting money into the agreement, which is rare for State grant-funded projects. Project involves mastication, hand-cut-and-piling, herbicide, some conifer planting (25% of ground). Given that the basin will probably never be conifer forest again, the goal is to

create a climate-adapted oak woodland landscape instead of the shrubland that would develop if left alone. Maybe we should even be planting blue oaks and foothill pine?! Colleen moved to sign the agreement, John seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- f) Contract with Pacific Southwest Research Station enabling RCD to provide reforestation site prep services in Concow Basin on 50 acres, adjacent to the 734 acres funded by SNC 1312 - Wolfy Rougle. This challenge cost-share agreement will enable BCRCDC to conduct the site prep on the PSWRS plots where Dr. Jessica Wright's team will be planting the common garden/provenance trials for three tree species – *Pinus ponderosa*, *Calocedrus decurrens*, and *Quercus lobata* – in order to better understand the genetic component of climate-adaptive traits in those species. John moved to accept the challenge cost-share agreement; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- g) Agreement Modification with Evan Watson for Forestry Assistance- Thad Walker. Evan just achieved his RPF certification and has been an extremely valuable contractor. Under this agreement modification, RCD would continue to pay Evan \$75/hr under the EFRP/EQIP agreement (which only pays RCD \$75/hr), but when he performs work under any fee-for-service agreement, his rate would become \$100. Colleen moved, John seconded, motion passed unanimously
- h) PBA improved liability form for minors - Wolfy Rougle – Incorporates feedback from Kathleen Greeson. John moved to approve the release with the minimum age requirement of 9 years old. Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- i) Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership letter of intent – Wolfy Rougle. Even though the RCD is interested in applying for Sierra Corps members this year in lieu of SNAP members, the SNAP program has worked out very well and since we don't know yet whether Sierra Corps will be funded or not, we need to stay in the queue for SNAP to make sure we're not shut out of both programs. We will still be able to back out of SNAP for the next few weeks (owing no money) if we find out Sierra Corps is funded and we want to pivot to it. Colleen moved, Allen seconded, to sign the letter of intent; motion passed unanimously.
- j) Caring cards for partners affected by Dixie Fire and Consideration of Donation - Wolfy Rougle. Wolfy created blank cards with a burned forest/fireweed theme for Board and staff to sign expressing condolences/sympathy for FRRCD, Almanor Ranger District, Maidu Summit Consortium, and Sierra Institute. Everyone who was physically present signed and Wolfy will follow up with Allen on Saturday so he has the opportunity to sign too. Colleen opened a discussion about how BCRCDC could help FRRCD with donations, given their displaced staff and disrupted projects. The discussion was tabled so we can wait and see how the situation evolves. Mike Crump suggested we bring it up with CARCD to understand an RCD's legal options in donating (or having staff donate), and to understand if there's a CARCD relief fund for disaster-affected RCDs.
- k) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, September 16th at 9:00 AM (location to be determined)

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

a) Staff Updates – Dixie Rd contractors are starting work now and it should be finished in a month.

Colby Mtn Recreation Area is up for \$1M implementation funding through American Recovery Act (ARPA) recreation infrastructure allocation. Trailhead upgrades (i.e., parking lot improvement) would likely be funded through Great America Outdoors Act.

Butte TREX planning is underway, with Wolfy serving as plans sections chief and Kimberly as operations coordinator for PBA lands. Landing/registration page will be hosted on BCRCDC website.

Granite Basin is going along, Tim has finished consult with CDFW and is working on hydro and soils; McCombs delivered her arch report.

Engineering agreement – given how long this position went un-filled and how little time remains on the

agreement, we've pivoted and are no longer trying to fill it. However, we are working more closely with NRCS than ever before, Kimberly will be getting a LincPass, and more EQIP applications are coming in than ever before.

Dave noted that the Cal Recycle-funded cleanup site where RCD helped remove 120 yards of waste, and fenced the area, looks great. Kimberly just entered a new CalRecycle grant for a landowner who has about 30 yds, 12 tires and a need for gates down near Gridley.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - None
- b) Butte County departments – None
- c) Community groups and agencies - None

9. CLOSED SESSION – Directors only – started at 10:31 am, finished up at 11:13 am

- a) Personnel

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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