



"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: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

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 June 18, 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 bcrd@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 – 9:09 am
- 2) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – NRCS District Conservationist Dan Taverner, Matthew Gramps-Williford of Konkow Valley Band of Maidu; Chairman David E. Lee; Directors John Christofferson, Colleen Hatfield; District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Tim Keesey, Wolfy Rougle, Thibault Hoppe-Glosser; Americorps Member Kimberly Romero
- 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 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) 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 1/19/2021** – John moved, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously
- b) **Review and approval of accounts payable and financials- Colleen Hatfield** – Colleen asked for Board permission to pay the auditors’ invoice before next Board meeting if we receive a substantial invoice that could help fund the expense and if the auditors produce a product. John moved to pay all bills on the A/P, plus the auditors’ bill when Colleen is comfortable with the deliverables, plus up to \$400 for advertising a new position. Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- c) **Operating Reserves, Q2 contribution, October 2020 until December 2020 -Thad Walker/ Colleen Hatfield** - \$8,333 quarterly contribution would put us on track (25%) to our \$33,000 annual reserve. John suggested contribution be scaled back to \$4,000 but revisited next month to see if another \$4,000 could be added then. Colleen agreed and also stated the \$8,333/quarter goal was a good one to try and keep. Colleen moved to contribute \$4,000 to the operating reserves and re-visit the topic next month. John seconded; motion passed unanimously. John asked if it made sense to suspend the Garmin InReach subscriptions during winter. Thad stated that crews are still doing forest inventories even during winter so the units are still being utilized.
- d) **Telework Policy/ Staff Stipend for Phone and Computer -Thad Walker/ Colleen Hatfield** – Thad and Colleen researched what several other RCDs are doing. Glenn takes a full-service approach where employees receive laptops rented from a company in Chico and the RCD has its own server; Yolo and Tehama use a stipend. Thad and Colleen estimated that a stipend of \$50/employee/month (\$30/month to offset laptop technology and \$20/month to offset cell phone) would be appropriate. Per Allevity, the stipend can be paid monthly to each employee as a non-taxable stipend. The board discussed establishing a minimum number of hours worked in a month to qualify for the stipend that month. Colleen proposed setting the threshold at 20 hours/month; John proposed 80 hours/month. Dave suggested Thad and Colleen get additional input from Robin at Allevity and bring the topic back next month.
- e) **Agreement with Sierra Institute for West Lassen Watershed Infrastructure Assessment -Thad Walker** - \$26,000 to look at 16 crossings and 2.5 miles of non-FS-system road. The work RCD (and/or PWA) would do on this project would be similar to an in some ways a continuation of the North County Roads Improvement project. Work to be done is in the Jonesville- Scotts John- Humbug Summit area.
- f) **Agreement with Trail Laboratories LLC for Colby Mountain Recreation Area, Trail Layout -Thad Walker** – Would utilize Friesen Foundation, SNC Vibrant Recreation, and WCB funding to do trail layout spring 2021 (as soon as snow melts). There is a need to provide housing for the 2-3 person trails layout crew for the 30-40 days of work, however, so Thad suggested tabling the agreement until the housing issue can be solved. Once

housing was located it could be included in the overall budget (but would not change what we pay the contractor). If we don't get the SNC funds however, likely NEPA would be pushed into 2022, which would open more housing options as COVID recedes. Item tabled til next month.

- g) Agreement with Chico State Enterprises for general services and specific agreement for biological surveys related to the Concow Pyrodiversity Project - Thibault Hoppe-Glosser** – Colleen moved to accept agreement, John seconded, motion passed unanimously
- h) Agreement with Solano Archaeological Services for cultural resource surveys for the Concow Pyrodiversity Project - Thibault Hoppe-Glosser** – Colleen asked if we had ever had our insurer or an attorney look over our contract template. Thad responded that yes, we had our insurer look over it, but not an attorney. John added that having an attorney looking at the template might be more of a complication than a help. John asked if, beyond simply mapping them, protecting cultural resources would be part of the scope. Thibault replied that protection measures are part of the analysis, even for a prescribed project, and land manager policy (e.g. USFS) dictates mitigation in many cases. John added he was happy to see Matthew Gramps-Williford on the call and hoped the Tribe would be a good resource for developing the best possible project. Thibault noted an objective of the project is to restore a fire interval closer to the historical/cultural norm, although it is not a cultural fire project. Colleen moved to accept the contract, John seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- i) Agreement with Dan Lipp for avian surveys related to the Concow Pyrodiversity Project; this agreement is an attachment to Lipp's existing contract approved by the board on 3/26/2020 - Thibault Hoppe-Glosser** – Would cover May-June avian surveys; reports would be put together into the early fall.
- j) Next Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2021**

6) RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- a) Update – See staff updates in BOD packet

Thad congratulated Tim on his forester license and thanked him for all the amazing contributions he has made to the RCD over the years. Tim thanked the BOD for their support over the years and added this isn't goodbye, he is more than open to working as a contractor in the future.

Wolfy – With Kimberly, is developing Tree Giveaway 3/13-14 (Sat in Paradise, Sunday in Oroville) for fire survivors. Master Stewardship Agreement with dual forests (Plumas and Lassen) is currently at USFS Grants and Agreements being processed for BOD signature.

Granite Basin – Team has worked to finish up specialist reports. If OHMVR is willing to allow work to continue, USFS will continue carrying NEPA forward. Kimberly – Has been helping Tim a lot with forestry plots and mapping and is currently focused on developing the tree giveaway.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Dan reported. With Tim's departure, some existing forestry agreements/planning agreements will need more help; Kimberly may be able to fill in somewhat. What is the plan moving forward to make sure that work can get done? Dave responded it

sounds like he and Thad and Dan should get together and talk about how to cover staffing needs going forward. Dan updated us on engineering agreement – NRCS is about to fly an engineer agreement shared between Redding, Red Bluff, and Oroville. The County of Butte has an ag excavation ordinance they want RCD/NRCS input on. 2 Berry Creek disaster contracts are going forward and 1 more in the works.

- b) Butte County departments – No updates
- c) Community groups and agencies - No updates

8) CLOSED SESSION – Directors only

- a) Personnel Discussion

No action taken.

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. 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