

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**Date: Thursday May 23rd, 2019****Time: 9:00 AM****Location:** 202 Mira Loma Dr., Eagle Conference Room, Oroville, CA 95965

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President
- 2) **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Dave Lee, President. Present: John Christofferson, Colleen Hatfield, Allan Harthorn, Thad Walker, Tim Keeseey, Wolfy Rougle, Kelly Peterson.
- 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 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 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.*

Kelly Peterson of Butte County Dept of Water and Resource Conservation – SGMA Update: Wyandotte Ck GSA will have its first meeting next Tuesday; Vina GSA is still scheduling meetings b/c it's still new; Butte Basin GSA is still working through an MOU of 11 agencies. Each sub-basin has agreed to a single, over-arching GSP. Colusa County sub-basin managers attend Butte basin meetings and coordinate with them under an MOU because their GW resources are shared.

Spring level updates have come out, showing groundwater levels at all test sites are higher than this time last year, but some sites are still lower than 2011. This shows that it takes multiple years of higher-than-average rainfall to recharge depleted aquifers. Foothill areas like Butte Valley are key recharge areas. This groundwater *levels* monitoring is separate from the Department's groundwater *quality* monitoring efforts (14 separate wells). The 1200'-deep "MRI" of groundwater recharge areas has been completed, but now the data cloud still needs to be analyzed. Once that's done, Butte County will have a much better idea of how its groundwater moves.

Meanwhile, Kelly's dept. is looking at options for getting water back into the Miocene canal. There is a prospective buyer negotiating with PGE. Kelly shared a May 6 memo from Paul Gosselin describing the options. Potential options for filling the canal include Del Oro (their out-take pipe at Lime Saddle actually crosses the Miocene) and PID, which has plenty of water (some of it potable?) but few customers.

- 5) **ACTION ITEMS** – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held April 18, 2019 – John moved, Colleen seconded, motion passed
- b) Review and Approve Outstanding Bills – John moved and Allen seconded to pay McCombs, motion passed; Allen moved and John seconded to pay all outstanding bills, motion passed.
- c) Bookkeeper report – Director Hatfield – Colleen is still in contact with Karen of Greystripe Accounting and is collecting the needed information for the future audit. Karen is about to move, and, after a few weeks or months, she may not be available for consultation anymore.
- d) Audit – RFP - Director Hatfield asked staff and directors to review the RFP. She asked the Board approve her hiring a pre-auditor for an hour of time to review the RFP and make sure the process starts off on the right foot. John so moved (not to exceed \$300), Allen seconded, motion passed. Meanwhile, Dave will talk to Gail about the RFP. Board members discussed seeking County help to pay audit costs. State Board of Equalization is the relevant authority on audit requirements for a special district.
- e) BCRCD Landowner Access Agreement, review/ approve – Tim Keesey explained this is necessary to allow RCD to do work with PWA on Center Gap Rd on Hubbard property, in lieu of work on Skyway (which has been removed from scope of work in the time since grant was submitted, because it was paved). The landowner access agreement Thad and Tim asked the board to consider is adapted from Mendocino County RCD (MCRCD) which has extensive experience with this kind of work. John made the following edits: Add parcel numbers. Change 2019 to 20__ to allow flexibility. Have Kathleen Greason review. Add wording regarding termination of the agreement. Review PWA’s agreement that it uses for private landowner work. After those things are done, John and Colleen requested that SDRMA (insurer) review the agreement. Allen suggested BOD also review CDFW landowner agreement for ideas. Timeline: Should be completed in 2 months (goal is to approve at July meeting).
- f) Watershed Coordinator, letter to DOC requesting budget adjustment– Wolfy Rougle. Wolfy presented a letter to sign requesting RCD’s indirect share be increased from about \$4,000 to about \$39,000, which she was invited to draft based on her discussions/negotiations with DOC. John moved to sign and send the letter, Allen seconded, motion passed. Staff and directors suggestions to Wolfy: Make sure DOC can be billed monthly and note RCD can’t carry a monthly salary commitment of this size, so maintaining cash flow is critical. At time of grant agreement, Dave will send a letter to DOC explaining that if RCD invoices are not swiftly paid, RCD will be forced to lay off the watershed coordinators.
- g) Prop 84 Grant Funding through Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) – Wolfy Rougle – Wolfy updated the board on the progress of the proposal, it looks like the grant may yield \$150,000. Due May 31st but Wolfy expects to submit it a few days early. Lynn Campbell, Thad, and Tim have reviewed.
- h) Sacramento Valley RCD meeting, MOU update – Director Hatfield. About 25 people turned out for the most recent meeting attended by Colleen and Thad, including 4 directors. The purpose is to create a durable MOU which will establish the ways RCDs could collaborate across the region on 3 core areas: carbon farming, water quality, and education/marketing. CARCD has produced more funding to continue the durable collaboration process. Dan suggested BCRCD might pursue a collaborative conservation planning agreement with NRCS along with Yuba-Sutter and Feather River RCDs. The best person to approach about this first might be Tony, Area 1 Soils Conservationist.
- i) CARCD Meeting – Director Hatfield. The annual meeting/conference will be November 12-15, Tuesday through Friday, in Redding. Registration hasn’t yet opened. Tim submitted an abstract on BCRCD’s behalf, it would be a panel of RCDs who have gone through catastrophic wildfire; he hasn’t heard back yet. DOC liked Tim’s idea of documenting the multiplier effects of DOC capacity-building grant... so much so that they decided to produce the panel themselves. They asked Tim to serve on that panel.
- j) Resolution adopting Final IRWM Plan – Wolfy Rougle. Wolfy explained that Board adoption of the IRWM is a step necessary to getting RCD projects funded through the IRWMG’s share of Prop 68 and Prop 1 funds. Board was hesitant to sign adoption since they had not gotten a chance to read the Plan. **Item will be placed on agenda for next meeting.**

- k) Consider New Position and Job Description for CEQA Coordination – Wolfy Rogle. Wolfy explained that several upcoming projects will create the need for a FTE CEQA-NEPA coordinator. John moved that RCD fly a concise “request for proposals” to see if there is interest, and if so, whether interest will be in a full-time or a part-time position. Allen seconded. Wolfy was directed to remove the “full-time benefitted” language from her draft, to draft a more concise proposal and run it by Board; she was also directed to look into costs of CSU’s Handshake and posting on RCD website and CARCD news. Hiring a subcontractor is also an option, it resolves cash flow issues (because you can delay paying a contractor for longer) but costs more and does not build capacity in the same way.
- l) Engineering Tech Position – Thad Walker. Jay has found a full-time position and left the RCD; Thad sought direction from the Board in hiring a replacement. Dan has 2 resumes from potential recruits, which he can pass along to the Board; he is precluded from doing anything more. Board asked Dan to reply to the applicant from Modesto Junior College and ask her for an interview. He did so, and she (Amanda Chaney) now has Dave’s number. President of the Board is authorized to hire, so Dave can communicate with her directly.
- m) FY ~~2018-2019~~ 2019-2020 Budget – It’s time to work on drafting a new budget which will cover July 2019 through June of 2020. Everyone update all your projects (quarterlies) within the next 2 weeks, send to Colleen, and then we’ll set up a meeting asap.
- n) Farm Bureau Membership, BCRCO Representative – Wolfy Rogle suggested that becoming a business member of the RCD for \$275/year might be a good way to reach the farm community and increase awareness/marketing of RCD programs. Dan pointed out that NRCS pours \$2 million into Butte County every year and that wouldn’t happen without RCD, so it’s good for RCD to sit at the table. Colleen moved to purchase the annual business membership ; John seconded. Motion passed. Directors and staff agreed that depending on the monthly FB agenda, it may be appropriate for a director, a staff person, or no one from RCD to attend FB board meeting.
- o) Directors form 700 – Director Lee - All board members have submitted, or are about to submit, their Form 700.
- p) September Board Meeting, consider changing from 9/19/19 to another date, preferably Thursday, 9/26 – John will look into getting a room for this date. This is to avoid conflict with 9/19 Feather River Ranger District Collaborative/Malcolm North visit.
- q) Next meeting date June 20th, 2019 at 202 Mira Loma Drive Oroville at 9:00am.

6) RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- a) Update – Thad Walker – North County Roads Inventory update: Roads workshop went very well, first TAC meeting for NCoRI also went well with SPI, FS, BC, soon PGE will join too. Next week’s work with PWA will focus on Head Dam Rd. City of Chico is adding more CEQA work for RCD to do; Upper Park Road grant with Water Boards was approved and RCD may administer. Dixie Rd – discussions w/ Water Board continue; this is actually federal money and may require writing of a watershed plan (which will be funded by WB or other non-RCD entity, but whether RCD will be responsible for writing it is TBD). Dome Trail – Quotes for supplies will be done by end of next week.
- b) Update – Tim Keesey – Proposed Action for Granite Basin is out and scoping is underway. Scoping will be over June 14 or 15. Also as part of the process, RCD is initiating consultation w/USFW re SNYLF. Tim will continue marking Chico/Stoney Fire trees this next week. Cottonwood – RCD is responsible for mapping all noxious weeds and ensuring levels of noxious weeds don’t increase. Star thistle is a main concern. RCD has an endowment amount, which is annually adjusted for inflation; any interest accrued beyond that adjustment is \$ available for work on the easement. If we can document how we used the money on the easement, we can use it – there is no strict limit to how much we can use. Tim is still working out with Cal Trans whether staff hours worked on the easement should be billed as actual costs or as fee-for-service. If we’re going to significantly increase the amount of work staff does on the property, RCD should **notify** the landowner. Terra Fuego/BCCER surveys are done (Tim and Wolfy).

- c) Update – Wolfy Rougle – Wolfy has been doing botany surveys on BCCER and Bidwell park, and will now start on CAL FIRE contract now that it is signed. She mentioned it might be a good idea for the RCD to hire a new botanist, someone who could be available on a moment’s notice because he or she would already be on the books (and thus covered by RCD insurance) because botany surveys tend to be time-sensitive and it can cause problems to have to wait for a contractor. Free giant sequoia and pine seedlings – Colleen will check on cold storage, Allen may have room for cold storage. RCD could only take advantage of this offer if a landowner can water the seedlings through the summer. (Update: The seedlings were gone by the time board meeting was over) Colleen motioned and Allen seconded that RCD accept the seedlings and fund Wolfy’s staff time to apply for (2) monarch kits from CARCD.
- d) Funding opportunities – Thad mentioned trails and greenways grant coming up could be a good fit for Colby project – deadline is likely to be end of August.
- e) Other Projects

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

- a) UC Cooperative Extension -Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor Plumas, Sierra and Butte- Tracy Kay Schohr – sent her regrets
- b) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Dan mentioned that RCD gets a lot of work as a reforestation *subcontractor* for large contracts like AFF’s and CARCD’s, but this sub-sub-contracting merely increases admin costs, leaving less available for implementation. It makes more sense for that work to go directly to RCDs as the contractor. **Dan and Colleen agreed to sit down together and write letters** about this problem to relevant deciders.
- c) Butte County departments
- d) Community groups and agencies – Friends of Butte Creek – CalOES is looking to fund a half-time or possibly even full-time position as a restoration/landscape engineer for Butte Creek Canyon, starting soon. FBC wrote a CDFW grant to fund 2 part-time watershed coordinators for Butte Creek but if funded, this would not start until 2020.

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: bcrcd@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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