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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA

Date: Thursday December 20th, 2018 Time: 1:30 pm. Location: 202 Mira Loma Dr.,  
Truckee Conference Room, Oroville, CA 95965

**1) CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President, 1:35 pm

**2) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Dave Lee, President

Present were Directors: Dave Lee, Colleen Hatfield, John Christofferson

Staff: Thad Walker, Tim Keesey, Wolfy Rougle

Public: David Beauchamp of Jacobson James and associates Environmental Consulting, Roseville/Walnut Creek/Arcata. Bill Agnew of Agnew Environmental Consulting, Jay Selby of Selby Erosion Control

**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 BCRCDC 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.

Bill Agnew described his role in the post- Carr Fire restoration; he was brought on as a consultant by WSRCD to oversee restoration efforts (1620 acres, all private ownerships!, all along salmon-bearing tributaries). His role is making sure BMP installation is efficient, developing native seed mixes, training inexperienced CCC and prison crews – up to 8-9 crews at a time, of 15 people each -- to make sure installation goes well, etc. Implementation on this project just started recently. Funded through Water Quality Board (\$2.2 M) a 3-year project. Agnew also provided the BLM's "National Seed Strategy" to better understand best practices for

reseeded lands. Hydroseeding is proceeding at a rate of 2T/acre, 40 lb native seed in that, 7-10 acres a day. He described that WSRCDC has been very successful in securing landowner permissions and that about “99%” of landowners have wanted the service.

Beauchamp described JJA’s areas of expertise: hazardous materials assessments, stormwater projects, remediation. The 40-person firm has been helping PG&E with post-Carr Fire and post-Camp Fire restoration. They also helped in Santa Rosa post-Tubbs Fire. For PG&E, JJA is providing erosion control and sedimentation control plus BMP installation and oversight. They’re also doing vegetation clearing \*and\* distributing BMPs on 7000 acres of projects around the state. They generally work on a time and materials basis. They work with Selby’s Erosion Control down in Newcastle, who sells wattles and hydroseeding.

Directors asked Beauchamp for a rate sheet/description of services available, which he agreed to provide. Directors asked Beauchamp if PG&E was willing to work with RCD and provide either any funding or in-kind services; Beauchamp was not sure at this time.

Jay Selby, working with Carr Fire salmon project, introduced himself and explained his company’s services, which include drone flights to produce modelling of debris flows that could affect salmon.

## 5) ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) **Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held November 15th, 2018** . Board moved to approve the minutes with the change that Board *did* indeed accept the signed contract from Phil Nemir.

- b) **Review and Approve Outstanding Bills**

Staff offered some edits and clarification. Dave moved to pay all bills after 12/27 when next payment comes in from Butte County, John seconded; motion passed.

- c) **Bookkeeper report – Director Hatfield** No update

- d) **Insurance claim update and audit – Director Hatfield** No update

- e) **Bank card – Director Hatfield** RCD should receive a debit card sometime next week and Director Hatfield will bring it to the office.

- f) **Review and approval and Posting of Section 1: General Policies – Director Christofferson**

The Board had read through Section 1 of “General Practices” and come to meeting with edits they would like to see. Director Christofferson noted that the P&P needs language directing employees to report to someone “in lieu of District Manager” for times when there is no District Manager. Also, he suggested that reimbursement for copies be raised from 25 cents/page to 50 cents/page. Once amended, the policies will need to be posted on BCRCD website for 30 days

before adoption. Colleen moved that the recommended edits be made, John seconded, motion passed.

**g) Review and reply to LAFCo Administrative review – Director Christofferson** LAFCo is about to post the “Administrative Review Draft” of its MSR (Municipal Service Review) for 30 days public review. John is concerned that the report contains numerous inaccuracies and that the Board should write a letter to LAFCo to make sure the report is not posted in its current form. David Beauchamp remarked that it’s uncommon for LAFCOs to conduct their own MSRs (more common to outsource this task to a specialist), so the attempt to handle the MSR in-house could explain inaccuracies. Beauchamp added that LAFCOs usually will not publish a report in administrative draft form without special district comments. The MSR recommends Butte RCD formally annex the portion of Butte County that was formerly in the now-defunct Vina RCD. David B. recommends (for administrative ease) that since RCD already does work under contract with City of Chico on Chico open spaces, it’s not a bad idea to seek to bring the cities under RCD Sphere of Influence. Dave Lee remarked it might be a good tie to bring this matter in front of the Supervisors.

**h) Dome Trail Construction Document & Extension - Thad Walker** Extension was received. Project is now waiting on USFS report in order for RCD to have enough info to put the project out to build for an engineer. The project can be “rebuilt as-built”, but USFS does have some specific recommendations in terms of materials e.g. georesins that need to be used.

**i) Stoney Fire Assessment and Restoration Project update - Thad Walker** Report is finished, trees are marked and felling them has begun. CCC crews were pulled off City lands to do Camp Fire recovery but are now returning and felling of the trees can proceed. CCC, under City contract, is only felling trees RCD has marked and is doing so to RCD specs. However, City has discretion to not fell trees RCD has recommended for falling. Project is on track and on budget. Plenty of budget remains for the follow-up that will be needed in the spring. The maps for both trails and trees are complete and have been provided to City. Board asked to see them at next meeting. (“Show and Tell!”)

**j) Granite Basin NEPA/CEQA Update, review job status report – Thad Walker, Tim Keesey** Environmental side – Proposed Action, Purpose and Need will go out in February, then go out for scoping and be presented at next FRRD Collaborative meeting. RCD would like to have Swayne RR Grade evaluated (FS says they can complete that evaluation within 9 months) because it is the preferred route, but both alternatives (Swayne RR grade route and the proposed reroute) will be presented in the Proposed Action. Forest carnivore survey is complete, all cameras are back. Saw a bobcat, spotted skunk, ringtailed cat and many many bears. McCombs final arch analysis will be complete by February.

Forest Service would like to add decommissioning of some trails to the scope of the project. This had not previously been part of the project. County (order of operations is Public Works, Coordinating Committee, FAC, Supervisors) needs to approve of this first, however, and County is unlikely to do so, but during scoping, anything could happen. If decommissioning was added

to the scope, the FS would be responsible for implementation (not BCRCDD). Everyone agreed Doug Teeter should be present for any discussions.

**k) North County Road Inventory –Agreements & Contracts – review job status reports - staff** Not much work done this month due to fire making the project area temporarily inaccessible. Work will resume early January. Will finish Centerville first, then Forks of Butte area will be prioritized. Post-fire, routes already assessed will not be re-assessed. However, the urgency of routes in the fire footprint will be upgraded, e.g. “moderate” urgency will be upgraded to “high”.

**l) 2018 OHMVR Planning Grant update – Thad Walker** RCD is on track to be able to put in this grant for the “Colby Collaborative” area for fixing parking area, plus trails expansion that provides legal OHV access to a vast area, plus roads evaluation to potentially do ML3-ML2 change and also address some water quality issues. Public meeting has already been held about this, in that Thad presented at 12/17 FAC meeting; and grant application process will start in January 2019. Expected grant estimate amount \$250-300K range.

**m) Cal Fire, CEQA Work for Fuels Reduction Projects “Nelson Project” contract- Keesey** Tim is working on Forest Mgmt Plan for Woody Nelson in North Magalia. Several other interested landowners, incl. 900 acres along Centerville/Doe Mill, and 600 acres between Butte Cr and the PGE Base Camp on Skyway. Tim expects to take forester test in April!

**n) Continuing upgrade of BCRCDD webpage –staff** Wolfy reported that she continues to update the Camp Fire Recovery resources part of the website and that this is how several landowners have connected with the RCD to seek forestry help.

John mentioned it might be a good idea to post project budgets online, which might help assuage concerns LAFCo may have. Colleen suggested that rather than post budgets project by project, RCD post a summary annual budget showing a big-picture snapshot of financial health. Staff remarked that coming up with an overview budget like this shouldn’t take too many hours and is also needed for certain grants RCD intends to pursue.

**o) Review Master Service Agreements with City of Chico, grant writing, etc.** Agreement has been signed and will be picked up by staff tomorrow.

**p) Review NRCS reimbursement Invoice** NRCS hours are in Directors’ packet and show that the NRCS Conservation Agreement has been 32% expended for a 3-year contract that began January 1, 2018, and Engineering 52% for a 3-year contract that started July 1 2017.

**q) Review Fee For Service Rates and 2019 Budget – Thad Walker** During “grant writing season,” staff realized the fee for service rate for professional forestry services might need to be revised. Tim has collected many rates from various independent foresters and they hover between \$80-100 an hour, sometimes as high as \$125 an hour for very dangerous and complicated projects like PGE post-fire projects. Some foresters make the client pick up whatever insurance is needed, others have general business liability, some have professional liability. John asked if \$150 was excessive when considering the expense of E&O insurance. Tim replied that from a grant perspective, it makes the RCD less competitive, and from a fee-for-

service perspective it also seems a little high. Dave asked whether a forester would confront insurance issues when doing work on City of Chico contracts. Thad remarked that if an RCD staffer does the work as an RCD employee, insurance will already be covered under the RCD's existing insurance and "Forestry Services" item of the Master Services Agreement. No action was taken.

**r) CARCD SWEEP Contract- Thad Walker** Thad reported Jay is doing a great job becoming an expert on the program. NRCS \$\$ should be able to be used as RCD's 50% match for the CARCD SWEEP contract because RCD can do outreach for NRCS programs at the same time and NRCS-provided office space etc can be used as match as well. We won't do projects if we can't come up with the match for them though. Contract runs through Dec. 1, 2019 to deliver \$19,788 worth of deliverables. Thad respectfully requested Board signature on slightly revised CARCD contract. Many other local RCDs are doing the same program so there is a lot of regional support and resources. Colleen moved to accept and sign the SWEEP agreement, John seconded, motion passed.

**s) Next meeting date: January 17th, 2019 at 202 Mira Loma Drive Oroville at 9:00 am.**

## **6) RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

RCD has been approached by County about offloading a large amount of wattles. Staff have reached out to BEC as well as Friends of Butte Creek to see if there is a location where they can be stored and opened up for a (maybe 1-3 days a week) public giveaway. NRCS can provide conservation planning hours to allow RCD to coordinate this. David Beauchamp remarked that PG&E has several microsites, some with substantial equipment there to load and unload, that they might be willing to provide space there as a good neighbor. Dave Lee would like to see at least 2 sites: 1 in Yankee Hill/Concow (hardware store), 1 in Paradise (CMA church on Clark Rd? or maybe Safeway/Red Lion PGE site?), and then Friends of Butte Creek can continue to use their 12600 Centerville site. Selby Erosion Control offered to lend the project a forklift as needed. RCD will pursue this, continuing to pin down locations. RCD will not be responsible for physical delivery of the wattles.

**a) NRCS Agreement – Dan Taverner – no update.**

**b) Funding opportunities** Thad described the Water Boards grant he pursued with PWA for the Upper Parks Roads/Trails grant (\$90K total [grant ask??], \$20K for RCD environmental) and Centerville/Butte Creek Watershed Camp Fire Recovery Roads project. (\$65K for RCD staff time, \$15K for CEQA = total of \$80K for RCD) Wolfy described the grants she had written or helped to write over December: a \$155,000 CAL FIRE planning grant for City of Chico with about \$75,000 for RCD over 18 months, a \$917,000 CAL FIRE education grant with about \$84,000 for RCD over 3 years, and a \$100,000 RAC grant with about \$16,500 for RCD over 2 years.

John asked if any roads assessment or repair projects had advanced to the point where RCD could ask SPI to have a look at them – to build rapport with SPI as much as for anything else.

This is because SPI has its own methods of road assessment/repair and RCD could learn from examining both SPI's and PWA's methodologies. Staff said it would be something they looked for opportunities to do as work progressed.

DOC FAP – Still about \$8K left and staff needs to prioritize to see which projects it should best be spent on.

David Beauchamp and Selby offered advice and help with upcoming grants for watershed restoration.

**c) Other Projects**

7) 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

8) CLOSED SESSION – Directors only

- a) Continuing Personnel Discussion
- b) Additional Personnel Hours & Compensation
- c) Discussion – Litigation

9) BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

10) ADJOURNMENT