



"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."

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020

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 bcr@dcarcd.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
- 2) **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Dave Lee, Vice Chair Allen Harthorn, Director John Christofferson, Associate Director Mike Crump, Director Colleen, District Manager Thad, Staff Wolfy Rougle and Tim Keesey, 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))

3) PUBLIC COMMENT (on non-action items) - None

(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.

4) **CONSENT AGENDA:** Project Updates (see board packet).

5) **ACTION ITEMS –**

Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of the minutes of the BOD meeting held 11/17/2020 – Allen moved, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously
- b) Review and approval of accounts payable and financials- Colleen Hatfield – John moved to pay bills as discussed, Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously
- c) Update on opening of new bank accounts- Cottonwood and Reserves- Colleen Hatfield. Both are ready to open at Mechanics Bank and awaiting Dave’s and John’s signatures (in-person).
- d) Audit Update- Colleen Hatfield – Auditor has all needed permissions to contact the Cottonwood fund manager(s) and bank(s). Work proceeds. Board may have the audit report by the end of 2020 or by next Board meeting.
- e) Additional GIS Licenses for staff- Colleen Hatfield/ Thad Walker – We want to add 2 more GIS licenses, one for Thibault and one for Ben (Kimberly will also receive an existing license). John moved to add 2 more licenses for the total of 6; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously. Working with ESRI, RCD will develop a license policy to make it easier to manage transitions when people leave. There was discussion about whether it is better to stay with Desktop (still most widely used, but Esri is threatening to stop supporting it) or ArcPro (newer, easier intercompatibility with ArcOnline, and will have more tools and options going forward, but for now there are interoperability issues with Desktop). Colleen will research this with her colleagues at CSUC, particularly with regard to interoperability between the 2 programs and the system requirements of ArcPro.
- f) Computer/ Tech Reimbursement for Staff- Colleen Hatfield/ Thad Walker – Should RCD provide staff with a tech stipend to support at-home work and technology capacity upgrades, or simply buy RCD-owned computers and assign them to staff? Dave asked that Colleen and Thad develop a proposed program and bring it back to January meeting.
- g) Granite Basin OHV Trail Development Project Notice of Determination and approval to pay CEQA filing fees - Tim Keesey – We received no public comment on the IS/MND so there are no changes to the document. An NOD needs to be filed, and fees paid (which will be reimbursed by the County), in order to close out this CEQA deliverable for this grant which ends 12/31/20. John moved to adopt the MND, sign the NOD, and pay the fees; Allen seconded. Colleen noted she would need to amend the A/P for this period, so Tim needs to send her an invoice for the fees. Motion passed unanimously.
- h) Friesen Foundation Award Letter and Agreement -Thad Walker – We would use these funds to contract with a professional trail-builder to accomplish layout for 40 miles of new trails. This is a new foundation (their first grant!) and just learned that they can only contribute funds to a non-profit (hence next item). John moved to accept the agreement, have RCD sign it and return it to the funding organization. Colleen seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Thad noted the Friesen Foundation has already supported the development of a professionally produced 5-minute video about RCD’s work with partners in the area (probably a \$20K value) and he really looks forward to sharing it with the Board.
- i) Establishment of North Valley Community Foundation Sub Fund for: Colby Mountain Trail Network and Restoration Project -Thad Walker – Although the rate would normally be 5%, NVCF has agreed to administer these funds at their post-fire community rebuilding

rate of 1%. This will provide a mechanism for people across the region to contribute to the Colby trailbuilding initiative. Colleen moved to set up the new account; John seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- j) Lone Tree Road Restoration Project, Bid Results and Contract with North State General Engineering DBA: North State Fencing- Thad Walker – We only received 1 bid that was within our available funds and has the needed qualifications. John moved to accept the bid, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- k) CARCD SWEEP, Contract Extension -Thad Walker – 1 year extension to allow us to utilize these hours for an irrigation technician (consulting with landowners, providing technical assistance, although there is no new SWEEP funding on the horizon) if we are able to hire one in the future. John moved to approve the one-year extension, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- l) Letter of support for Pacific Southwest Research Station’s post-fire research grant application – Wolfy – While most forestry research seems to be done in Tahoe or Yosemite, low-elevation warm forestlands like in Concow are actually at greatest risk of forest loss. PSWRS staff are interested in testing the influences of seed source and species mix (particularly hardwood-softwood mixes) on forest stand resilience as forests are replanted post-fire. They had a relatively simple experimental design planned in Concow which they didn’t need help with, but got a big funding opportunity and want to dramatically expand their research, supported by RCD-supervised Americorps labor. Wolfy described PSWRS’s request to have RCD support 2 Americorps volunteers for \$15/hr for summers, plus an RCD supervisor for \$65/hour for 10 hrs/month during that time. PSWRS would also supply a USFS vehicle for the Americorps volunteers’ use, that would be parked in Chico or Oroville as needed. Board was supportive but requested staff consider increasing the amount of time dedicated to supervising the 2 Americorps members and seek affirmations that PSWRS will be the primary field supervisors. RCD’s ability to participate in this project will be dependent on securing 2 half-term Americorps members starting in March, something over which RCD has little control. PSWRS staff did not request any formal signatures or documents of support so no motion was made. Board emphasized they cannot commit to participation without seeing more detail and a contract.
- m) Next Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

6) RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- a) Update – See staff updates in BOD packet

Wolfy – Wolfy shared that DOC is willing to offer a 6-month extension and requested Dave sign the request letter, which Thad has reviewed. After DOC receives the letter, the process of grant amendment will commence and during that time, Board input will be sought. The request letter does not represent any binding contract. Dave stated he is fine with signing the request letter.

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 – Friends of Butte Creek and Flow West are looking at a project to assess sediment inputs into Little Butte Creek and main stem Butte Creek; it’s due this Friday. Allen discussed with Thad the possibility of having RCD support this project implementation (if it is

funded) through assessments and fieldwork. FOBC is also looking at some Prop 1 grant funding next year to fund the downstream work on the CSUC Preserve.

8) CLOSED SESSION – Directors only

a) Personnel/Insurance 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