



*"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: Thursday, March 21, 2024**

**Time: 9:00 AM**

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

### **Or Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88974119154?pwd=V01CaUpYVEw3VFpNQS84YkFSSmJkQT09>

**Meeting ID: 889 7411 9154**

**Passcode: 575904**

**Join via phone +1 408 638 0968**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President, 9:00 am
- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Dave Lee, Chair; Andrew Sohnrey, Director, Colleen Hatfield, Treasurer; Thad Walker, District Manager; Faith Churchill, Cait Bell, and Wolfy Rougle, staff; Joy Lujan, Solid Ground Consulting; Kenneth Fowler, member of the public.
- 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 BCRC D 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:

- a) Review and approval of the minutes of the BOD meeting held on 2/15/2024 – Colleen moved, Andrew seconded, to approve consent agenda; motion passed unanimously.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield. Lots of invoices will go out in April because March 31 is the end of a quarter. We discussed RCD's potential exposure to any possible federal shutdown: If it happens, it could affect our work with the BLM and slow down (but not take away the funds for) our negotiations with PNF on Camp Fire Settlement Funds. Overall however, we don't use much federal funding. We also discussed the potential for advances on future grants; about half of future grant sources we look at, including PNF funding, do include the possibility of an advance. This will really help with cash flow. Otherwise on financials, no one had any questions this month. At next month's meeting, we will further discuss the reserves funding. Andrew moved, Colleen seconded to approve financials; motion passed unanimously.
- b) Presentation (virtual) by Solid Ground Consulting, Joy Lujan, on BCRC D Strategic Planning Process (information only) – As a foundation of the strategic planning process, Solid Ground will interview the Board Members, plus a number of partners and potential partners (e.g. Farm Bureau, Ag Commissioner, Butte County Dept of Water and Resource Conservation) over the next couple of weeks. The purpose is to get a sense of what partners see as RCD's greatest strengths and opportunities and how RCD can best work with them. A strategic Board retreat will be held second week in April, April 8 from 8 am- 12 noon.
- c) Review of 2020, 2021, 2022 Audits Report- Colleen Hatfield – The auditor was good to work with, focusing on helping us find ways to improve. More current years were relatively easier to audit and had improved practices in place, but a valid audit was eventually obtained for all three years. The auditor has now provided us with their findings. Now that our audits are caught up and current, we are in compliance with CARCD standards. Andrew moved to accept results of all 3 years of audits; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- d) Depreciated equipment, review, and potential disposal -Colleen Hatfield – There's a list of equipment (computers etc), amounting to about \$11,450 in value, that has been on our depreciation listing for a long time and Colleen and Cheryl would like permission to write it off. Colleen moved, Andrew seconded to write off the assets; motion passed unanimously.
- e) Engagement Letter with Perry, Bunch & Johnston, Inc. for 2022/ 2023 Audit -Colleen Hatfield – This is the firm that just completed our last 3 years of audits and since they have capacity to do the 22/23 audit, it only makes sense to engage them because they should have fewer costs getting up to speed; and staff time and bookkeeper time to assist will absolutely be less. Colleen moved, Andrew seconded to have Dave sign the letter of engagement; motion passed unanimously.
- f) Review of Section 5 of BCRC D Policies and Procedures -Dave Lee and Andrew Sohnrey – Only 1 major change was made during Dave and Andy's revision: on p 8, addition of language about keeping digital copy of approved minutes, which we have already been doing the last few years. Colleen moved to accept and adopt the revised Section 5 as policy; Andrew seconded; motion passed unanimously. To vote on next month: Proposed revisions to Section 1. Dave circulated marked-up copies of Section 1 (General Policies) for Board members' and District Manager's review.
- g) California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, Officer Election for Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer - Colleen Hatfield – CARCD had a virtual meeting in Feb to elect new executive committee for CARCD, but it was not fruitful, so now each RCD BOD needs to vote for (1) candidate each for Vice President and for Secretary-Treasurer. 2 candidates are running for each spot. BOD members have read the candidate statements. After discussion, Colleen moved to vote for Tahoe RCD's Harold Singer as Secretary-Treasurer, and Loma Prieta RCD's Peter Van Dyke as Vice President. Andrew seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- h) Agreement with Forest Creek Restoration for Butte Creek House Meadow Restoration, under Sierra Meadow Partnership Agreement with Point Blue Conservation Science -Faith Churchill – FCR, who helped us develop the grant and the plan, would now be the prime contractor for implementation, responsible for (re) constructing all the channel fill and check dams, and would also sub-contract to sub-contractors who would cut encroaching lodgepoles and construct the low-tech, process-based interventions such as beaver dam analogues and post-assisted log structures. All sub-contractors would have to meet the same insurance and other contracting requirements as the prime. CDFW lands crews will donate time to the project as match, and Faith's time is also match since it is funded by a separate grant. Andrew moved, Colleen seconded to approve the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- i) Agreement with Wild Ginger Botanical Consulting for Crane Valley Meadow Restoration Project Botany Survey and Report -Faith Churchill – The meadow is mixed ownership: SPI, Wilson Family, and (we recently found out) 6 acres of LNF land. WGBC would survey both Wilson and LNF land and would write reports to meet both NEPA and CEQA standards. Colleen moved, Andrew seconded to approve the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- j) Resolution 03212024 to apply for Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) round 3 funds from Sierra Nevada Conservancy (directed grant) - Wolfy Rougle –This directed grant would provide about \$480,000 to support Butte County Collaborative Group (BCCG) capacity. About \$138,000 of this would be RCD staff time (as BCCG Project Coordinator/GIS person) or indirect; The balance would: support CSE in providing GIS technical support to Tribes; fund the Northern California Regional Land Trust for a planning project on lands they own in Deer Creek Canyon; fund planning projects for the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu for planning; and pay BCCG partners such as BCFSC and BCCER to help complete a collaborative monitoring plan in partnership with BCRCD. Andrew moved, Colleen seconded to have Dave sign the resolution; motion passed unanimously.
- k) CEQA Notice of Exemption, Point Blue Conservation Science, Hunt Ranch Restoration -Faith Churchill – A small habitat restoration project to fence cattle out of a riparian area, construct nest boxes etc. Colleen moved, Andrew seconded to sign and file the Notice of Exemption; motion passed unanimously.
- l) CEQA Notice of Exemption, Butte Creek Camp Fire Post-Fire Recovery Project, Waterboard Grant D2113514 -Thad Walker – A 1602/404 permit will be required in the future, but for now, this is the CEQA environmental document for the Centerville Road repair, utilizing categorical exemption 15302 (repair and reconstruction). Archaeological and botanical surveys have been completed, amphibian and bird surveys would be completed pre-implementation. Andrew moved, Colleen seconded to have Dave sign the Notice of Exemption; motion passed unanimously.
- m) Agreement with Warner Enterprises for Bureau of Land Management, Upper Ridge Nature Preserve, mastication and log deck removal -Thad Walker – Knowing this would be a project under \$50,000, we got 3 quotes and Warner was by far the lowest bid, and is qualified and has worked with us on other projects. And, they can complete the work by the end of the month. Andrew moved, Colleen seconded to approve the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- n) Agreement with Summitt Forests, under Sierra Nevada Conservancy 1312, Concow Resilience Tree Planting, Plumas National Forest -Cait Bell – 21 acres would be sparsely (re)planted with 3,000 ponderosa pines, we received 2 quotes and Summitt (who has already worked on the project and is very experienced in this type of work) was the lowest bid. Colleen moved, Andrew seconded to approve the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- o) Amendment of agreement with Konkow Valley Maidu dba Konkau Association Corporation, Sierra Nevada Conservancy 1312, Tribal Monitoring -Wolfy Rougle – This would allocate an additional \$100,000 and change to allow KAC to complete additional cultural resource monitoring and native plant plantings before the grant expires in Dec 2024. Colleen moved, Andrew seconded to approve the amendment to the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- p) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

## 7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates – Thad was able to attend the Soil Health Field Days again this year, where the focus was on almonds and other tree crops. Great on-farm cover crop demonstrations and a lot was learned. Our Sac Valley RCDs Soil Hub Coordinator was there as well. CSU Center for Regenerative Ag will also do the carbon monitoring for Crane Valley meadow! Cait and Thad were able to meet with State Conservationist Carlos Suarez in Willows and discussed the need for additional trainings and for long-term agreements to support RCD’s ability to expand NRCS’ capacity. All staff who work on forestry projects were able to take the LTO certification class through Shasta College/CAL FIRE which provided a great refresher on the law around the forest practice rules. David with the PBA is really increasing burn capacity, usually holding one event a week and sometimes even two. In fact, they are burning in Cohasset as we sit here meeting.

We continue to dialogue with Blue Forest Conservation about the potential for a Forest Resiliency Bond to support Upper Butte Creek implementation; they may even visit a future BOD meeting (April or May) to present. The PNF is asking BCRCDD to take on a significant chunk of the Camp Fire Settlement funds, through 2 separate agreements, one which includes all kinds of fuels reduction/reducing invasive weeds/resource surveys/etc, and one which is just for resource ordering assistance during prescribed fires. To assist with the latter, both Wolfy and Dallas are taking the ICS 300/400 series of classes so they can be qualified as Plans Section Chiefs. Status of these agreements: They are sitting in the Plumas National Forest Supervisor’s office waiting to be signed, at which time they will go to Region 5 where officials already have some preparation for what the ask will be, thanks to proactive FRRD post-fire recovery coordinator Travis Sanchez. The first week of April, Wolfy will attend the Conservation Finance on NF Lands workshop in Sacramento as part of the Southwest Lassen team, one of 10 teams selected from around the nation where partners and USFS offices are working together to advance ambitious projects.

In other news, we are working on an engineering agreement with NRCS that would allow us to contract with a local firm to provide engineering technical assistance and plan review. We would not try to hire another engineer! This would help NRCS approve and advance more engineering projects, ultimately helping farmers. We also wrote conservation planning assistance into the agreement.

We were not awarded the IRA grant we applied for for SFLAP, but we were invited to re-apply for up to \$2 million. We also have already applied for a CAL FIRE wildfire resilience block grant for \$1.9 million for 2 years of SFLAP.

With generous support from Sierra Nevada Brewing, the May 15 Sac Valley Regional meeting will be hosted by Butte RCD at the Sierra Nevada brewery in Chico. If you can only attend 1 Sac Valley Regional meeting, make this the one!

## 8. PARTNERS’ REPORTS (5-minute limit per group)

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) -none
- b) Butte County departments - none
- c) Community groups - none

## 9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

*email list, please notify the Butte County RCD at (530) 534-0112, ext. 122 or by email to: [bcrd@carcd.org](mailto:bcrd@carcd.org). The BCRC D 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 BCRC D 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*