



"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, April 18, 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

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dave Lee, Chair; Andrew Sohnrey, Director, Colleen Hatfield, Treasurer, Samantha Lewis; Thad Walker, District Manager; Faith Churchill, staff; Rhianna Dutra, CSU Chico; Amber Moore, Blue Forest; Matt Sjöhlm Blue Forest

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.* CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 3/15/2024.

- b) Review and approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 4/8/2024
Colleen moved, Andrew seconded to approve consent agenda, Samantha abstained, motion passes

5. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield- The budget numbers were over projected, Colleen stated that this happens when you are estimating and it unlikely to be a problem since it will be kicked to the next year. Thad mentioned that some delays in projects such as the Colby Mountain project causes the estimates to come out incorrect. Interim report from the last three weeks, not a whole lot of activity and nothing of great concern. It is the end of the quarter and the staff has completed most of the invoicing in case the state locks up their payments. Allevity has given a summary of the increases of benefits during this current open enrollment time. Rates for anthem have gone up by ~10% since last year. Daves moves to pass, Andrew seconds, motion passes unanimously.
- b) Presentation by Blue Forest -Forest Resilience Bond to Support Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project -Amber Moore (project development manager) and Matt Sjoholm (information only)

Blue Forest is a Non-Profit conservation finance organization that utilizes a Forest Resiliency Bond (FRB) to blend public and private funding. Implementation partners (in this case the RCD) usually have a stewardship agreement with the Forest Service. Blue Forest then evaluates the benefits of a project and brings them to beneficiaries who then contribute to the FRB. Each FRB is tied to a specific location and project (such as the Upper Butte Creek project). The beneficiaries for the Upper Butte Creek Project include the Metropolitan Water District and they have verbally committed \$600,000 so far. Benefits of using the FRB: alleviates cash flow constraints; facilitates proportional cost-sharing; creates a platform for collaboration; offers flexible funding commitment structures; and shifts financial management off the beneficiary and onto Blue Forest. Similar example projects are the Yuba I & II FRBs. Next steps: finalize agreements with BF and BCRCD by May/June, finalize beneficiary contributions and agreements, and continue to secure more grant funding as opportunities arise. No interest loan to support implementation of the Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project. This will allow for prompt payment of staff and contractors. There are two agreements we would develop between BF and BCRCD- one is the 0 interest loan, and the other is for the funds coming from the beneficiary. They can start sharing the draft agreements whenever BCRCD is ready to review.

- c) Review and Revisions of Section I of Policies and Procedures -David Lee and Andrew Sohnrey-

Responses to comments in the Policy Handbook:

- The administrative assistant item that was added is referring to future roles we would like to hire.
 - There is a need to create a district claim form.
 - Remove paragraph relating to Water Master Service (pg. 5)
 - Other language relating to three board members now needs to be changed to two for quorum. \$10,000 insurance deductible approved.
 - Property damage claims on district form should apply to all claims, not just those more than \$500.
 - A new version will be updated and brought to the board for final approval at next month's meeting.
- d) Discussion of BCRC Business Manager Role and Position Description -Thad Walker- This position can allow us to improve our fiscal management especially as we are adding in much larger grants and projects. Could help with annual reports, invoicing, budget tracking and projection, following up on payment requests, labor compliance, and training compliance. With a business manager on staff, the district manager role may be easier to hire in 6 months- year. Possibility to bring payroll in house and reduce costs with Allevery. A shared google doc will be created to collaboratively create the job description for approval at the next meeting.
- e) Purchase of side-by-side and trailer to support High Lakes Motorized Trail Improvement Project -Thad Walker- This project utilizes post-dixie fire emergency funds to protect water quality from OHV water crossings, etc. We have a current SPA with the forest service to implement this season. The location is very hard to access with a regular vehicle and requires a side by side or rock crawler. Costs to purchase a side by side have been written into the grant. Thad has check with trailers Plus and found a 6x4 tandem utility trailer and pioneer 2024 Honda side by side that he believes will best suit the RCD. A polaris could be an option, but they often have issues with the belt, and the Honda dealer is close to the office for any maintenance needs. Additionally costs that were not written into the grant includes PPE. Dave asks if we have considered a John Deer vehicle. Thad mentioned that the Honda is a hybrid between utility and recreation which gives the ability to drive over some more aggressive terrain. Andrew asks about the Kubota and states it is likely a safer option. Colleen motioned to approve and leave it up to staff to decide on the make, seconded by Andrew, Samatha voted no, motion passed. Samatha asked that all staff take safety training before operating the side by side.
- f) CEQA Notice of Exemption, Point Blue Conservation Science, Tupy Riparian Fence Project -Faith Churchill- Less than 1 mile from Lake Oroville, this project proposes to put up exclusionary fencing to protect the seasonal creeks from flash grazing of cattle. Colleen motioned to pass, Andrew seconded, motion passed unanimously.

- g) CEQA Notice of Exemption: Tem Kojo, Konkow Valley Band of Maidu post fire clean-up project -Faith Churchill This is phase two of the Konkow Maidu Hazard tree removal following the camp fire. Activities include bucking, brushing, clearing around the fence, invasive broom removal.. Andrew moves to pass, seconded by Colleen, passed unanimously.
- h) Colby Mountain Recreation Project -CEQA File Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration for the Colby Mountain Recreation Project (Informational Item) - Thad Walker- NEPA was signed on April 1st, and is funded by the Siera Nevada Conservancy therefore requiring a CEQA negative declaration. It is currently under review and a decision is expected by the next board meeting.
- i) Application to become a Grizzly Corps host site for 2024-25 - Thad Walker- Similar to AmeriCorps SNAP, this program would provide support for our EQUIP program with the NRCS and other forest inventory needs. The RCD would pay \$28,000 for the year in quarterly installments of \$7,000. This position can assist with SFLAP and other ongoing meadow restoration projects as a technician. Fee for Service hours can help pay for the cost. Colleen moved to pass, seconded by Andrew, motion passed.
- j) Extension of Cal Fire Agreement 8CA04460 though June 30, 2025 -Thad Walker- There is some money left, but we are coming to the end of the agreement so Cal Fire would like to extend a year. ~\$135,000 is left in the agreement. The last work done under the agreement was done at Swedes Flat and other unit preparation activities. Extended to June 30, 2025 Andrew moved to pass, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- k) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

6. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates- The PBA has been very active in the current burn window and David has been doing a great job maximizing the number of burns conducted. A few staff will also be attending Plumas TREX as both participants and teachers. The PBA will be assisted in a cultural burn next week with the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu.
Spring meeting for the Sac Valley is on May 15th in the Sierra Nevada Big Room. Board members are encouraged to join if available.
Camp Fire Recovery Funds agreement is moving along and has been approved at the R5 level.
Thad attended the Farm Bureau meeting on the fifth and was able to sit on the committee for the SWEEP block grant and helped award funds to local farmers.

Faith and Thad attended the Partners in Practice Symposium with the Forest Service.
The POE Trail project in collaboration with PGE is close to layout.
Strategic planning session had many constructive conversations and a draft document will be coming to the board at a future meeting.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- b) Butte County departmentsCommunity groups

8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

- a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report -Dave Lee shared the resignation letter from Director, John Christofferson

9. ADJOURNMENT

***NOTE:** The Butte County Resou-rces 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.*

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