



“To protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing partners, landowners, and the community 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 19, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: 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 – 9:00 am Chair Dave Lee; Vice Chair Allen Harthorn; Treasurer Colleen Hatfield; Directors Andrew Sohnrey, Jeff Carter; District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Wolfy Rougle, Faith Churchill

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)) - None

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 Regular Meeting held on 2/19/26 – Jeff moved approval of the consent agenda, Colleen seconded; motion passed with 3 in favor, 2 abstaining due to not having been present for the February meeting.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield - As predicted, now that the (sometimes late) funder payments of Q4 invoices are in, the negative balances are gone. Accts payable and profit/loss balances are favorable. Jeff moved approval of the finances, Andrew seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- b) Loan and Services Agreement with Blue Forest, Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resiliency Bond LLC, for Upper Butte Creek Project, Lassen National Forest -Thad Walker – Will facilitate us paying contractor much faster than otherwise on the Upper Butte Creek and Humbug Rd projects, especially when after contractors invoice us, we must invoice Sierra Institute, who invoices NFWF. Butte RCD will be the first RCD in the State to use the FRB! Allen moved to approve the agreement, Jeff seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- c) Grant and Services Agreement with Blue Forest, Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resiliency Bond LLC, for Upper Butte Creek Project, Lassen National Forest -Wolfy Rogle – Would provide \$150,000 that could be applied flexibly to a broad suite of activities in Upper Butte Creek. Jeff noted that 3.4.1 section 2 refers to us as a “corporation;” of course we are not a corporation but rather a special district, and Blue Forest knows this. Blue Forest sent us a revised copy of the agreement with the appropriate change made. Allen moved to approve the agreement, Jeff seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- d) Agreement Amendment III with Point Blue Conservation Science for Crane Valley Meadow Restoration WCB-BCRCD-1 -Faith Churchill – We have accomplished all the deliverables from this grant but still have \$30,000 left over, so this amendment formally gives it back to the Sierra Meadows Program so that money can be used for other projects that need it. Allen moved to approve the agreement, Jeff seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- e) Agreement Amendment with Point Blue Conservation Science for Butte Creek House WCB_BCRCD-2 -Faith Churchill – Would extend by a year the time we have to spend \$12,000, which will allow us to do another year of effectiveness monitoring, and potentially to have involvement when/if beavers are returned to the meadow. Andrew mentioned CDFW can have all the beavers they want from his property, just give him a call. Andrew moved to approve the amendment, Jeff seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- f) Resolution 03192026-1 to apply for Public Access Program Grant through Wildlife Conservation Board to support the Colby Mountain Recreation Project. -Thad Walker – A formal step allowing us to apply for the grant below. This funding will allow us to build out the multi-use Humboldt Summit trailhead and hub (including improved equestrian access), as well as the Yana trail and the accessible classroom trail near Jonesville. That trail, co-developed by us and CSE, will help educate 6th graders about restoration and forestry and will be in the lower Willow-Colby Creeks meadow complex. \$2.63 million grant. BCRC D is committed to working with all users to make a good trail experience, within what the NEPA document allows. Allen offered FOBC’s help with any additional curriculum development that’s needed. Jeff moved to approve the resolution, Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- g) Agreement with Wildlife Conservation Board Public Access Program to support continued

construction of the Colby Mountain Recreation Project -Thad Walker – After BOD board approves this agreement, the WCB board will consider this at their next general meeting. Andrew asked about the 20-year maintenance requirement. FS and trail volunteers will ensure the maintenance. Jeff moved to approve the resolution; Andrew seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- h) Board Resolution to apply for Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Sustainable Recreation, Tourism, and Equitable Access Grant Program 1900-RT for Colby Mountain Project Phase II -Thad Walker – This would provide \$500,000 through Prop 68 funding to build the 3.5-mile Home Trail, connecting the existing Sno-Park to the ½ acre new Colby Hub. Includes a small budget for Tribal participation in interpretive signs. The FS’ investment of \$225,000 for the new pedestrian/equestrian bridge over Willow Creek can be used as match. Colleen moved to approve the resolution; Jeff seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- i) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates – We had almost 40 applicants for 2 seasonal forestry technicians, and Julia will hire the top 2 this month. The seasonal crew model is one new to BCRCO but Julia has used it successfully in the past. The seasonal crew will be doing timber sale layout in Upper Butte and vegetation management layout in Concow and possibly Forks of Butte, as well as possibly wildlife surveys, assistance with some PBA tasks, invasive weed reduction and monitoring tasks.

David Mitchell, PBA Coordinator, has achieved his CARX certification. Congratulations, David! We are proud to think we are most likely the only RCD in the state with 2 CARXes on staff.

Wolfy reported on how the PBA went, in about a month, from being broke and facing the possibility of having to close down operations, to being fully funded through at least the next 1.5 years, and maybe for 2.25 years! First we received the \$50,000 from Fire Safe Council (which BOD approved at our last meeting), then days later we learned we were one of about a dozen organizations (out of 70+ applicants) to receive a \$75,000 grant from CoCo-AIM. This funding will take us through early spring, and days after *that* we heard the Watershed Center (which has funded the Butte PBA before and has worked with us on many trainings and TREXes) can fund PBA operations for the next 9 months after that. With \$100,000 of potential Butte College funding also on the horizon (we’ll keep you posted), that puts the Butte PBA not having to worry about money until July, 2028.

Thad reported the new F250 is home now and this month we’ll be building it out with toolboxes, bolting in the QTAC, getting the decal on the side, etc. It’s got 76K miles on it, a 10-speed transmission, and the ability to extra-safely tow our water buffalo so we are very grateful.

Faith: The next BCCG field tour will be April 23rd out in Concow to look at RCD, Forest Service and Konkow Maidu projects. Board members are welcome and Faith will send out details.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Real busy over there right now with a ranking period underway
- b) Butte County departments
- c) Community groups

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

- a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report – Allen sat in on a CARCD meeting last week. An election was held, and incumbent board president Rick Gomez won. Allen’s ear was caught by the following: discussions about enhancing the high school Speak-Off; offering certificates for CCC graduates to move on to RCD employment; ED Nancy has been meeting with State grantors about increasing

indirect on grants and agreements; CARCD raised its procurement threshold for Board approval from \$5K to \$25K.

The Sac Valley Collaboration of RCDs will be May 6-7 (tour on the 6th) in Quincy, hosted by Feather River RCD.

Allen: Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) is hosting its conference in Redding this year, April 28-May 1, with Tues and Wed trips to Clear Creek, Battle Creek etc.

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.*

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