



“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, October 16, 2025

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 9:00 am

- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Dave Lee, Chair; Allen Harthorn, Vice Chair; Directors Andrew Sohnrey and Jeff Carter; Treasurer Colleen Hatfield; District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Dallas Koller, Julia Sidman, Wolfy Rougle

- 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 Regular Meeting held on 9/18/2025
Consent agenda passed unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield – We have outstanding invoices from March and July amounting to over \$100,000, both from CARCD using CAL FIRE funds. We expect to be paid for the \$100,000 very soon but have been told to expect our next invoice to be even more delayed than usual! Next month Colleen expects to run a budget-to-actual exercise as our first quarter of FY 2025-26 will be all wrapped up. Staff will send Colleen and Cheryl and email confirming that the small negative balances remaining in the chart of accounts on certain closed grants can be written off. Allen moved to approve the financials, Jeff seconded, motion passed unanimously.

b) Consideration of Amendments Proposed at CARCD Annual Conference -Colleen Hatfield/ Thad Walker – These resolutions, suggested by member RCDs, have been approved by CARCD Board and will come before the member RCDs at the annual conference in November for a vote. Those that are approved will become amendments to the CARCD bylaws. The Policy Committee, on which Colleen serves, has a slate of recommendations. The Board asked Colleen if there are any instances where she would have liked to see a different recommendation from the Policy Committee as a whole and she said no. Examples of the amendments:

- 2 RCDs in the SoCal/Inland region want to move regions, 1 to the High Desert region and 1 to the Southern/Baja region. The process for moving regions will be influenced by proposed bylaw changes. For these 2 resolutions, Colleen recommended BCRC D vote to allow the move as permitted under the old bylaws – and if the bylaws affecting regional moves are changed in November, then BCRC D may be forced to vote again.
- Asking CARCD to make RCDs aware of funding opportunities etc. regardless of whether RCDs are members or not (would give more RCDs the benefits of memberships without having to pay dues). (Colleen and the Policy Committee suggest a no vote on this)
- Requiring the Policy Committee to develop “minimum standards” for accounting and transparency
- Seeking to lobby for increasing the % indirect allowed on State grants, in the interest of full cost recovery for RCDs (Thanks to Tehama County RCD for proposing this)

Jeff moved to approve the slate of recommendations from the Policy Committee; Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.

c) Update on Request for Proposals for Audit Services -Thad Walker – This is the first year we’ve needed to put out an RFQ for a “single audit” because we are taking in more than \$1,000,000 in Federal funds. Although we had great help from other RCDs in assembling a solid RFQ and we sent it to 8 or more firms, we had only 1 inquiry and in the end no

bids. There are too few CPAs who can perform single audits on special districts for the demand, so Thad will need to spend more time calling firms directly and perhaps looking farther afield. Informational item only.

- d) Contract with Escareno Reforestation for Concow Resilience Project, Plumas National Forest-Feather River Ranger District, Unit 8A vegetation treatment - Julia Sidman There's green trees in this one! The Camp Fire acted as a good underburn in this area of Flea Mountain. To improve owl habitat and reduce hazardous fuels, Julia worked with the FRRD wildlife biologist to design a prescription that's mostly hand work (starting immediately) and some heavy equipment potential (starting when soils dry out next year). We got lots of local bids, and Escareno (with whom Julia has worked before) was the lowest. Colleen asked that in the future, contract budgets be more broken out by bid items rather than a single big lump sum. Jeff moved to approve the contract; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- e) CEQA Notice of Exemption, Mooretown Tribal Landscape Cultural Fire Project, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California – Wolfy Rouble – Would authorize ~350 acres of prescribed/cultural fire on Mooretown lands around Kanaka Peak. Due to the way the project is designed, BCRCD has found no impacts to botanical, wildlife, cultural or other resources. WaterBoard has been consulted and has stated they will not require SWPPP for the soil disturbance involved in new fireline creation. Colleen moved to approve the NOE; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- f) Agreement with Vestra Resources Inc. for Engineering Services, NRCS Irrigation Technical Assistance -Thad Walker – NRCS extended us an additional \$40K bringing our agreement to a total of \$106K, but this would cover other NRCS office outside Butte County too. We've already brought on Rolls Anderson and Rolls to assist, but were asked to also develop an agreement with Vestra so they can assist e.g. the Shasta County NRCS office(s). Same agreement as we have with RAR but 1) slightly higher indirect for us due to recent beneficial Federal changes and 2) could be used across the entire Sac Valley Region. Jeff moved to approve the agreement, Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- g) Agreement with Lupine Legacy Foundation for planning/ CEQA services for Lupine Ranch Property -Thad Walker Lupine Legacy Foundation is a Chico-based family foundation which has invested in a number of community benefit projects including with CARD. They have recently acquired a ~200 ac parcel adjacent to Highway 32 descending into Stilson Canyon/Little Chico Creek, and would like to hire the RCD to develop a land management plan. Riparian restoration, prescribed fire, fuels reduction and grazing (which has been going on for a long time) would be elements. Contains a basalt pit mine (Franklins). Allen moved to approve the contract, Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- h) CEQA Notice of Exemption, Butte Prescribed Burn Association Programmatic Burn Plan, October 2025 - Dallas Koller – We review and renew this NOE each year (or can be more or less often if needed) to reflect changes in local landowners' burn plans or property status. Plan currently contains 15 landowners with about 230 acres ready for healthy fire. This CEQA coverage allows for Dallas to serve as CARX for the landowners, saving them a lot of money and allowing them to enroll in the state-sponsored Prescribed Fire Claims Fund. Allen moved, Jeff seconded to approve the NOE; motion passed unanimously.
- i) Next Board of Directors Meeting **Monday, November 17, 2025, at 9:00 AM**,
Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

* *Changed usual meeting day, to accommodate CARCD Conference which is Nov 20th**

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

a) Project Updates – We are rushing to finish many of our implementation projects before winter weather, including Centerville Rd, Colby Mountain. We unfortunately had to cancel this year’s Speak-Off because no one registered. Even though we’re grateful for the help of Nicole Wheeler the local UCANR representative who works closely with high school ag programs, we need to find ways to get the word out more directly to all FFA members; we will try to ramp up outreach for next year. The 19th annual FOBC Wild and Scenic Film Festival “Films on Fire” this year was a big success and Colleen stated that Dallas did an amazing job and so did Allen. The FAC is going to host a tour of the Colby Mtn trails on Monday, Oct 27th meeting at time TBD at the Jonesville Sno-Park (and it will be a Brown Act-noticed FAC meeting!) Sac Valley RCDs regional meeting is Oct 30th (there are 2 per year). Location TBD, may be Colusa or Greylodge wildlife refuge?? Federal shutdown update: Forest Service is mostly business as usual at least as it pertains to the work we do, but NRCS is completely shut down. This is negatively impacting many RCDs but we feel fortunate to have secured our Chico office that doesn’t depend on NRCS functioning. Allen asked about the turbidity in Big Chico Creek. WaterBoards have shared that this is not due to a landslide or hill failure somewhere, but rather to an intense storm cell that sat over the headwaters of Campbell Creek, where intensely burned SPI land had been intensely logged-over, and this resulted in streams and tributaries being incised down to bedrock. With each subsequent storm for a while, more sediment will probably unzip from the headwaters. We’re in a great burn window right now and David is happily arranging burns for as many days as possible.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- b) Butte County departments
- c) Community groups – Friends of Butte Creek – Over 7,000 Chinook salmon are spawning in Butte Creek this year. Allen has also heard that Deer Creek had “a pretty good run” this year, as did Clear Creek and Battle Creek.

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: 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