



"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, January 19, 2023

Time: 9:00 AM

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

Or Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84342212526?pwd=eTZuQzJSV3IDRIcyYWJkcnhWm1mdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 4221 2526

Passcode: 704514

Join via phone +1 408 638 0968

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President, 9:09 am

- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Dave Lee, Vice Chair Allen Harthorn, Director Samantha Lewis, Treasurer Colleen Hatfield, Associate Director Mike Crump; District Manager Thad Walker, Staff 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)) - None

4. 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 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 12/15/2022
- b) Teleconferencing Requirements of the Brown Act/AB361 BCRC Resolution 01202022

Colleen moved, Samantha seconded, to approve the consent agenda; motion passed unanimously

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield – Why does it sometimes seem like our overall balance is negative? – Because the unspent monies sitting in all our various advance accounts are recorded as liabilities until we expend them. If you set aside these advance liabilities, you will see we really do have money! Samantha asked if, now that the year is over, we were going to spend some extra time comparing budgeted income/expenses to actual? Colleen replied that we definitely can but our fiscal year (on which the budget is based) is July 1- June 30. We discussed a handful of invoices that are 61-90 days old or older; on these, we are waiting for payment from CAL FIRE. The state’s Prompt Pay Act, which went into effect Jan 1 of this year, should reduce this type of situation (but it’s not retroactive), so now we just need to figure out if we need to sign up for it/register, or not. Internally, with our recent Policies and Procedures amendments, we now have a good process in place to write and send checks twice a month. Samantha moved, Allen seconded, to approve the financials; motion passed unanimously.
- b) BCRC Retirement Plan Option- CalPERS 457 Plan- Thad Walker – The Board previously directed the DM to explore options for a 401(k) for BCRC employees, but having talked it over with Allevery, it turns out that a 457 is the only plan special district employees are eligible for. CalPERS offers one that seems like the best option. BCRC does not have to contribute but can; there is no penalty for an employee to withdraw the money (which is different from a 401(k)). Because we don’t have a CalPERS pension, our paperwork burden would be a little higher, and using CalPERS for our 457 could change our relationship with Allevery. We could still use Allevery for payroll but on the other hand we could also start doing that in-house (Cheryl, the bookkeeper, says adding payroll to her tasks would take her an extra hour a week). Colleen will find out: Would taking some of Allevery’s functions in-house cost us more money (for e.g. workers’ comp, benefits) than it costs Allevery, with their larger number of employees? Samantha pointed out that BCRC would have the option to add a 3% 457 contribution instead of a 3% cost of living adjustment; this would benefit the employee because the 3% match to a 457 is on pre-tax income.
- c) Mike Santuccio Brush Creek reforestation CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE)- Wolfy Rogle – Allen commented that the wildlife section mentions the possibility of steelhead to occur; this is actually not possible in Brush Creek because of Oroville Dam. Wolfy agreed this was an oversight, since wildlife species occurrence tables are generated by doing 9-quad exports from CNDDDB. Although the Feather River and tributaries would not support steelhead on the Brush Creek quad, a portion of Butte Creek (which does support steelhead) must be appearing on an adjacent quad. After conducting the CNDDDB export, staff goes through the 9-quad export table and removes all the species with no potential to occur on the project site in question. When Wolfy did this, she overlooked steelhead. Colleen suggested it’s usually better to leave species in (to show we analyzed for them) even if they don’t have potential to occur instead of the opposite. Allen then moved to have Dave sign the NOE as is; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously
- d) Sole Source Justification for Solano Archaeological Services Year 2 of Upper Butte Creek project – Wolfy Rogle- Board requested 2 changes: change “indefinite” to “per Board-approved agreement”; and fix typo on word “archaeological”. With those changes, Colleen moved, Allen seconded to approve, and motion passed unanimously.
- e) Contract for Solano Archaeological Services Year 2 of Upper Butte Creek project – Wolfy Rogle- Allen moved, Samantha seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- f) Amendment to grant 458-25-03 with the Watershed Research and Training Center to provide an additional \$15,000 for the Butte Prescribed Burn Association. Colleen moved, Allen seconded to accept the amendment; motion passed unanimously.
- e) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, Feb 16, 2023, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Staff Updates – Congratulations to our Colby Mtn Project and Upper Butte Project are finally on the LNF SOPA; both PAPNs will be forthcoming probably in the next month. Thad traveled to Sacramento to WCB meeting in the last month to voice support for 3 block grants WCB was awarding. One large grant, for monarch habitat restoration, would go to CARCD and then be distributed to other RCDs, including us for some habitat restoration on Far View Ranch in southern Butte County; one would go to Point Blue and support working lands conservation; the third will go to Point Blue (applicant) and the Sierra Meadows Partnership for meadow restoration in the Sierras, that we can apply for to do planning (e.g. Crain Meadow) as well as implementation/restoration (e.g. Butte Creek House when permitting is done).

PNF has been pile-burning on the Concow Resilience project this past week, and staff continue to oversee fuels reduction at lower elevations, as well as also working with USFS on planning and NEPA documents. Crain Meadows project looks promising and will likely be the first meadow restoration project we apply for under the new WCB block grant above. Faith Churchill has been taking the lead on developing that proposal.

Allen asked if BCRCDC has been in charge of putting down the gravel on Upper Park Rd, which is basalt gravel from Table Mountain and very hard on tires, shoes! Allen stated gravel would be better sourced from river gravel near Oroville. Thad stated BCRCDC is not responsible for choosing the gravel, but that the basalt gravel does have a mixture of fines that will allow for good compaction after enough traffic. With all the rain, there hasn't yet been enough traffic to compact the gravel and form a good roadbed. The basalt gravel selected will contribute to good durability of the roadbed. Allen hoped basalt gravel wouldn't be what was used on Centerville Rd. Thad replied that it will be the County's choice. Allen stated that the gravel recently applied on Helltown Rd was just about the worst he's ever seen, with such a high percentage of fines it largely washed away very soon. Samantha asked whether it was going to take a lot of effort to accommodate the new request for accessibility to a Type 1 fire engine (rather than a Type 3 that is was originally designed for). Making this change will be the City's responsibility (BCRCDC has completed all grant deliverables) and will involve widening the road a bit with some cobbles and smoothing out some dips so the Type 1 engine won't bottom out.

Thad developed a budget for our office needs (1500-2000 sf) which would be about \$3,100/month (plus \$5,810 in start-up costs for furniture etc) which includes rent, utilities, copying, cleaning, etc. We are working with Century 21 to look at office space that's available in Chico, and will continue to look at new spaces as they become available. Of course, office rent and associated expenses needs to come out of indirect; Thad reviewed the indirect available to the BCRCDC through our 5 biggest existing grants; it's adequate, and furthermore our true indirect is much larger because it really adds up across all our smaller grants and our fee-for-service projects.

Samantha asked whether we were looking at office space that would include a conference room where the Board could meet; she also asked whether the Oroville, County-owned room where the Board currently meets costs BCRCDC money. The Oroville room is free for us to use; Thad speculated we would probably continue to utilize it for meetings since Oroville is the county seat (but that's a board decision); we would also continue our relationship with NRCS. Samantha asked about bathrooms (a single gender-neutral bathroom would probably be adequate for our staff), security costs (not yet budgeted for but can easily be added) and the general layout we are looking for (we need a common space where people can work together but definitely some side offices with closable doors for Zoom meetings; plus some storage space for tools and project equipment. Dave asked, which is more important, an office or a truck? (An office.) Mike asked, would acquiring office space support us in asking for larger indirect allocations on grants? (In some cases, yes; it's complicated.) Board asked are we looking at partnering up with other orgs that are also looking for space. (Yes; for example, Point Blue; Cal Trout.) Samantha stated it seems like a house would actually be a great fit. Should we just talk to a real estate agent and rent a house that has suitable zoning? Thad responded we've talked about this with Century 21 and sure: if a house comes up that seems like a good fit we would definitely go that route. Samantha expressed it's a good idea, esp if a location comes up with street visibility, because that would increase BCRCDC's visibility in the community.

Thad suggested the Board approved a range of rental expenditure, so BCRCDC would be able to move quickly on office space if the right opportunity comes up. That said, we would not move hastily because

it's not like we are losing our existing space/situation. Colleen suggested the board authorize a monthly rental amount slightly over \$2,100/month to give BCRCDD flexibility. To sign an actual rental agreement, a Board meeting would be required and Dave stated calling a special meeting would be appropriate.

8. PARTNERS' REPORTS (5 minute limit per group)

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

8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

- a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report – None.

9. ADJOURNMENT: 10:25 am

10. Closed session: Board reviewed staff compensation.

***NOTE:** The Butte County Resources Conservation District (BCRCDD) 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: bcrdd@carcd.org. The BCRCDD 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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