



*“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.”*

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Minutes**

**Date: Thursday, April 16, 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** – Andrew Sohnrey

**2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - 9:00 am** Vice Chair Allen Harthorn; Treasurer Colleen Hatfield, Directors Andrew Sohnrey, Jeff Carter; District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Julia Sidman; NRCS District Conservationist Dan Taverner; BEC Executive Director Courtney Ellington; Chico State Student Melissa Covington

**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))

a) No closed session needed, Thad will follow up with the directors via email after the meeting

#### 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 BCRCB 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 3/19/26 - Jeff moved approval of the consent agenda, Colleen seconded; motion passed with 3 in favor (Allen was not yet present)

#### 6. ACTION ITEMS – Andrew Sohnrey, Director

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield - March was the end of Q1 so there has been lots of movement in the financials. April was not as active as usual. Colleen directed everyone to look at receivables as there is a lot more than accounts payable. We currently only have 1 advance account open and have \$373,000 available as of the end of March. We will likely see a decent shift in numbers as quarterly invoices were just submitted. Our 2026/2027 budget will likely see some shifts as categories are changed, such as fee for service. This ties in to our current “budget to actual,” which is more-or-less like looking into a crystal ball. The fee for service is too high and should likely be switched with reimbursable project income, and this all comes down to some category reclassification which Wolfy and Cheryl have been working on. Colleen requested that we discuss taking two old (2+ years) charges off of the accounts. A few open invoice concerns, but they are from CARCD and RFFCP (both 2 months late) and this is not unusual. Our income is at around \$3 million, and as always our biggest expenses are paying subcontractors and payroll. Jeff moved approval of finances, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- b) Utilization Golden Valley Account #4667 to hold Blue Forest Grant Funding for support of Upper Butte Forest Health Project, Lassen National Forest -Thad Walker - This is for the Blue Forest FRB that the board approved last month. Requesting to utilize the 4667 account as a holding account for the \$150,000 from Blue Forest as we have done with grants, as it is easier for tracking and transparency. The #4667 account previously held operating reserves (which continue to increase) which were moved over to the class account and the remaining small amount of funds being held in this account will be moved over to operating reserves as well. These Blue Forest funds will be billed against frequently, so it will be ideal to keep it in an account that is easily accessible liquid. This account does not accrue interest but Colleen can speak to the bank to see if it is possible to make this an interest-bearing account. Jeff moved to approve, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously. Thad mentioned that at an agenda item at next board meeting will be discussing creating ACH options for these funds, which is a requirement of Blue Forest. They have discussed options with the bank and it seems that there is a monthly fee of \$25 and a \$5 fee per transaction.

- c) Memorandum of Agreement N0626UCA0002899 with USDA NRCD California, unfunded shared services agreement for office, vehicle, and personnel -Thad Walker - This should be with “USDA NRCS”. This is the standard agreement between NRCS and RCD. Maintains RCD office space at the NRCS office and ability to use NRCS vehicles as needed. For the RCD, expectations are to be a cooperator, complete annual reports, and continue supporting the NRCS through funded programs such as CARCD EQIP or CARCD RCPP. Dan requested that we change the phone number on our website as it gets routed to his number. Dan also mentioned that he is not allowed to comment or address new agreements and that all new agreements must go to higher levels of management in the USDA. Colleen moved to approve, Allen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- d) Agreement with MTN Consulting and Restoration LLC, for post restoration monitoring at Butte Creek House, California Department of Fish and Wildlife - Faith Churchill - Last month the board approved the extension of these funds, as we were heading towards the closeout on this grant with a remaining balance of \$12,000. The timeline of the agreement has been extended to the end of the year which gives us time and funds to continue monitoring and completing reports for the water board. This agreement is for \$8,000 to be given to MTN Consulting to assist with monitoring. The other \$4,000 remaining will be for RCD staff time to monitor, complete reports, eventually close out the grant, and hopefully assist with the reintroduction of beavers to the meadow. Jeff moved to approve, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- e) Cooperative Agreement with County of Butte for Humbug Summit Road Project - Thad Walker - This agreement has been a long time in the works. Primarily for the Humbug Summit Road realignment project. Upper Butte Creek NEPA will be utilized and the CEQA has not yet been completed. This agreement authorizes the RCD to work on moving a county road that is currently bisecting Willow Creek Meadow, with plans to also restore the meadow as well. This is a county owned and maintained road that passes through USFS land through a prescriptive easement. County requires that the work be done to County-standards and this agreement clearly defines roles and responsibilities of each entity involved. As known by the board, this has been a point of contention in the past and we are looking forward to having clearly defined roles. This project has \$2 million allocated through the NFWF funding via Sierra Institute and is slated to take two years. Andy expressed some concern that there is no budget listed and an apprehension to agreeing to a project when full funds for completion might not be available, but Thad is certain that the money will cover road work and finding funds, if needed, for meadow work would not be difficult. The permitting process through the Army Corps of Engineers and the Water Boards has already begun, and we are almost at 100% design completion. NFWF funds will also support county staff oversight time and involvement with encroachment permits. RCD staff has a meeting next week with Forest Service, County staff, and Supervisor Teeter to discuss the project and will go before the Board of Supervisors for full approval. Colleen moved to approve, Allen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- f) CEQA Notice of Exemption for fuels reduction conducted by Berry Creek Rancheria in Berry Creek, CA Wildfire and Resilience Project, 338 Raccoon Road Unit - Thad Walker - This CEQA is for our partners Berry Creek Rancheria, with whom we have worked many times in the past. They recently acquired a 39.5 acre property in Berry Creek and would like to complete some fire restoration activities such as hazardous tree removal, invasive species removal and management, selective thinning to promote fire adapted species, pile burning, and potential

broadcast burning, all while allowing the tribe to take the lead and utilize TEK in their approach to restoration. Jeff moved to approve, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.

- g) Agreement Amendment #1 Point Blue Conservation Sciences for California Spotted Owl Surveys, Forest Service Concow Supplemental Project Agreement - Julia Sidman - This is an amendment to an existing agreement with Point Blue to pay for the staff time of their Biologist Carrie Wendt in assisting RCD staff with owl surveys in our Concow project areas. Carrie worked with RCD staff to determine the number of site visits needed and submitted an updated budget for this year. Jeff moved to approve, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- h) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, May 21, 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 - Project updates have been sent out with new updates highlighted in yellow. Thad reminded the board of some upcoming events for their calendars - The Sac Valley meeting of RCDs will be in Quincy on May 7th with a field tour on May 6th. Colleen is unable to attend but it would be nice to have a board member present, especially since one of the agenda items at the meeting is new CARCD bylaws which will also be an agenda item at our May board meeting. The RCD will be leading a BCCG field tour of Concow on April 23rd. June 5th is the Colby Mountain Trails Ground Breaking day with the county, the day before national trails day on June 6th, and will also be an opportunity to celebrate the newly signed Upper Butte Creek NEPA. The PBA has been very active with a good burn window this weekend and we will hopefully be seeing the COCO AIM grant funds by next month.

The CalRecycle grant, recently received by the RCD to clean up an illegal dump on BLM land off of Centerville Road and install a gate, has recently hit a large speedbump. A contractor recently alerted Faith, just a day or two before bids were to close, that there was a contractor on site cleaning the trash up. While it is BLM property, PG&E has access through it to reach power infrastructure and PG&E sent a contractor out to clean up the trash and install a gate. BLM was not aware of this happening and this presents the BCRCD with a big problem of having a signed agreement for a project that can no longer happen and we have already incurred expenses billed to the grant. CalRecycle is working with their legal department to determine next steps and BLM has written a letter supporting the RCD's involvement. BLM has identified some other potential dump locations. If we have to give the funds back, there is the potential that we could recover costs via our GNA with BLM.

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

a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - Currently have 11 applications accepted for funding. There is a new program, Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP), that falls under the EQIP umbrella. This program requires soil testing and some RCDs have asked if they can assist with that, but it requires a "Qualified Individual (QI)" status. There is one RPP selected in Butte and the producer will decide which QI to use. One

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) application and 9 RCPP applications. Currently, funding is looking better than last year. At a statewide level, all RPP applications must be 100% funded and contracted before they can receive further EQIP or CSP funding (generally around \$100 million), so that is their number one priority currently. Mary Mayeda, area forester and Acting State Forester, requested input on how to prioritize forestry projects - green areas? Forest recovery in burned areas? Light discussion was had on the best choice, but Thad recommended that Dan attend a BCCG meeting to get input from a larger group. Some discussion was had on recent successes with telemetric water level monitoring for rice farmers, as well as the implementation of a new tractor-pulled tool that allows precision application of phosphorus and potassium (40 acres treated in about 20 minutes).

b) Butte County departments

c) Community groups - Courtney Ellington, new Executive Director for Butte Environmental Council, introduced herself and expressed a desire to work together going forward. Invited everyone to the Endangered Species Day on May 2nd and the Climate Action Day on April 26. The Climate Action Day will focus on fixing the Chico composting site at the Oak Way Community Garden as well as building 5 new composting sites in Oroville to expand their "Drop in the Bucket" composting program to the Oroville community. BEC recently received two EV vans from Red Cross to support pick-up of community compost and Oroville already has 40 interested households signed up.

## 9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report - Allen noted that their Floodplain project is underway! The C's came out recently and cleared some pathways for monitors and removed invasive species in the process. Engineers from Flow West are on site today taking bathymetric analysis of the ponds to give a clearer picture on the shape of the landscape. CDFW engineers will hopefully be on site next month.

## 10. CLOSED SESSION- discussion of legal matter

a) This was moved from the agenda at the beginning of the session.

## 11. 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](mailto: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.*

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