
Butte County
Resource Conservation District
(BC RCD)

POLICY HANDBOOK

Section V: Board Meetings

Adopted: _____

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a. POLICY TITLE: Board Meetings
POLICY NUMBER: 5010

5010.1 Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the third Thursday of each calendar month at 1:00 p.m. at 202 Mira Loma Drive, Truckee Conference Room, in Oroville, CA 95965. The date, time and place of regular Board meetings may be reconsidered annually at the annual organizational meeting of the Board.

5010.2 Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Board President or by a majority of the Board.

5010.2.1 All Directors shall be notified of the special Board meeting and the purpose or purposes for which it is called. Said notification shall be in writing, received by them at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

5010.2.2 Newspapers of general circulation in the District, radio stations and television stations, organizations, and property owners who have requested notice of special meetings in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code §54950 through §54926) shall be notified by a mailing unless the special meeting is called less than one week in advance, in which case notice, including business to be transacted, will be given by telephone during business hours as soon after the meeting is scheduled as practicable.

5010.2.3 An agenda shall be prepared as specified for regular Board meetings in Policy #5020 and shall be delivered with the notice of the special meeting to those specified above.

5010.2.4 Only those items of business listed in the call for the special meeting shall be considered by the Board at any special meeting.

5010.3 Emergency Meetings. In the event of an emergency situation involving matters upon which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, the Board of Directors may hold an emergency special meeting without complying with the 24-hour notice required in 5010.21, above. An emergency situation means a crippling disaster which severely impairs public health, safety, or both, as determined by a majority of the Board.

5010.3.1 Newspapers of general circulation in the District, radio stations and television stations which have requested notice of special meetings in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code §54950 through §54926) shall be notified by at least one hour prior to the emergency meeting. In the event that telephone services are not functioning, the notice requirement of one hour is waived, but the Board, or its designee, shall notify such newspapers, radio stations, or television stations of the fact of the holding of the emergency special meeting, and of any action taken by the Board, as soon after the meeting as possible.

5010.3.2 No closed session may be held during an emergency meeting, and all other rules governing special meetings shall be observed with the exception of the 24-hour notice. The minutes of the emergency meeting, a list of persons the Board or designee notified or attempted to notify, a copy of the roll call vote(s), and any actions taken at such meeting shall be posted for a minimum of ten days in the District office as soon after the meeting as possible.

5010.4 Adjourned Meetings. A majority vote by the Board of Directors may terminate any Board meeting at any place in the agenda to any time and place specified in the order of adjournment, except that if no Directors are present at any regular or adjourned regular meeting, the District Manager may declare the meeting adjourned to a stated time and place, and he/she shall cause a written notice of adjournment to be given to those specified in 5010.2.2 above.

5010.5 Annual Organizational Meeting. The Board of Directors shall hold an annual organizational meeting at its regular meeting in December. At this meeting the Board will elect a President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer from among its members to serve during the coming calendar year, and will appoint the Executive Secretary as the Board's Secretary.

5010.6 The Chairperson of the meetings described herein shall determine the order in which agenda items shall be considered for discussion and/or action by the Board.

5010.7 The Chairperson and the District Manager shall ensure that appropriate information is available for the audience at meetings of the Board of Directors, and that physical facilities for said meetings are functional and appropriate.

b. POLICY TITLE: Board Meeting Agenda
POLICY NUMBER: 5020

5020.1 The District Manager, in cooperation with the Board President, shall prepare an agenda for each regular and special meeting of the Board of Directors in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Section 54950). Any Director may contact the District Manager and request any item to be placed on the agenda no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day that is 48 hours prior to the closing of the agenda for the next meeting date (per Section 5020.4).

5020.2 Any member of the public may request that a matter directly related to District business be placed on the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, subject to the following conditions:

5020.2.1 The request must be in writing and be submitted to the District Manager together with supporting documents and information, if any, at least seven business days prior to the date of the meeting;

5020.2.2 The District Manager shall be the sole judge of whether the public request is or is not a "matter directly related to District business." The public member requesting the agenda item may appeal the District Manager's decision at the next regular meeting

of the Board of Directors. Any Director may request that the item be placed on the agenda of the Board's next regular meeting.

5020.2.3 No matter which is legally a proper subject for consideration by the Board in closed session will be accepted under this policy;

5020.2.4 The Board of Directors may place limitations on the total time to be devoted to a public request issue at any meeting, and may limit the time allowed for any one person to speak on the issue at the meeting.

5020.3 This policy does not prevent the Board from taking testimony at regular and special meetings of the Board on matters which are not on the agenda which a member of the public may wish to bring before the Board. However, the Board shall not discuss or take action on such matters at that meeting.

5020.4 At least 72 hours prior to the time of all regular meetings, an agenda, which includes but is not limited to all matters on which there may be discussion and/or action by the Board, shall be posted in a place that is freely accessible to members of the public (California Government Code 54954.2 (a)(1)). If the District maintains a website, the agenda shall be posted on the website for public information at the same time. All information made available to the Board of Directors (except confidential information allowed by State law per legal counsel authority) shall be available for public review prior to the board meeting.

5020.4.1 The agenda for a special meeting shall be posted at least 24 hours before the meeting in the same location as for Regular Meeting agendas (California Government Code Section 54956).

c. POLICY TITLE: Board Meeting Conduct
POLICY NUMBER: 5030

5030.1 Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be conducted by the Chairperson in a manner consistent with the policies of the District. Policy No. 5070, "Rules of Order for Board and Committee Meetings", shall be used as a general guideline for meeting protocol.

5030.2 All Board meetings shall commence at the time stated on the agenda and shall be guided by same.

5030.3 The conduct of meetings shall, to the fullest possible extent, enable Directors to:

5030.3.1 Consider problems to be solved, weigh evidence related thereto, and make wise decisions intended to solve the problems; and,

5030.3.2 Receive, consider and take any needed action with respect to reports of accomplishment of District operations.

5030.4 Provisions for permitting any individual or group to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda of a special meeting, or to address the Board at a regular meeting on any subject that lies within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors, shall be as followed:

5030.4.1 Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of 20 minutes to each subject matter.

5030.4.2 No disruptive conduct shall be permitted at any Board meeting. Persistence in disruptive conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the Chairperson, of that person's privilege of address.

5030.5 Willful disruption of any of the meetings of the Board of Directors shall not be permitted. If the Chairperson finds that there is in fact willful disruption of any meeting of the Board, he/she may order the disrupting parties out of the room and subsequently conduct the Board's business without them present.

5030.5.1 After clearing the room of disruptive individuals, the Chairperson may permit those persons who, in his/her opinion, were not responsible for the willful disruption to remain in the meeting room.

5030.5.2 Duly accredited representatives of the news media, whom the Chairperson finds not to have participated in the disruption, shall be permitted to remain in the meeting.

d. POLICY TITLE: Board Actions and Decisions
POLICY NUMBER: 5040

5040.1 Actions by the Board of Directors include but are not limited to the following:

5040.1.1 Adoption or rejection of regulations or policies;

5040.1.2 Adoption or rejection of a resolution;

5040.1.3 Adoption or rejection of an ordinance;

5040.1.4 Approval or rejection of any contract or expenditure;

5040.1.5 Approval or rejection of any proposal which commits District funds or facilities, including employment and dismissal of personnel; and,

5040.1.6 Approval or disapproval of matters that require or may require the District or its employees to take action and/or provide services.

5040.2 Action can only be taken by the vote of the majority of the Board of Directors. Three (3) Directors represent a quorum for the conduct of business.

5040.2.1 A member abstaining in a vote is considered as absent for that vote. A member abstaining due to a conflict of interest does not count towards a quorum.

5040.2.1.1 Example. If three of five Directors are present at a meeting, a quorum exists and business can be conducted unless the abstention is due to a conflict of interest. However, if one Director abstains on a particular action and the other two cast "aye" votes, no action is taken because a "majority of the Board" did not vote in favor of the action.

5040.2.1.2 Example. If an action is proposed requiring a two-thirds vote and two Directors abstain, the proposed action cannot be approved because four of the five Directors would have to vote in favor of the action.

5040.2.1.3 Example. If a vacancy exists on the Board and a vote is taken to appoint an individual to fill said vacancy, three Directors must vote in favor of the appointment for it to be approved. If two of the four Directors present abstain, the appointment is not approved.

5040.3 The Board may give directions that are not formal action. Such directions do not require formal procedural process. Such directions include the Board's directives and instructions to the District Manager.

5040.3.1 The Chairperson shall determine by consensus a Board directive and shall state it for clarification. Should any two Directors challenge the statement of the President, a voice vote may be requested.

5040.3.2 A formal motion may be made to place a disputed directive on a future agenda for Board consideration, or to take some other action (such as refer the matter to the District Manager for review and recommendation, etc.).

5040.3.3 Informal action by the Board is still Board action and shall only occur regarding matters that appear on the agenda for the Board meeting during which said informal action is taken.

e. **POLICY TITLE:** **Review of Administrative Decisions**
POLICY NUMBER: **5050**

5050.1 The provisions of §1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure of the State of California shall be applicable to judicial review of all administrative decisions of the Board of Directors pursuant to the provisions of §1094.5 of said code. The provisions of §1094.6 shall prevail over any conflicting provision and any otherwise applicable law, rule, policy or regulation of the District, affecting the subject matter of an appeal.

5050.2 This policy affects those administrative decisions rendered by the Board of Directors governing acts of the District, in the conduct of the District's operations and those affecting personnel operating policies.

5050.3 The purpose of this policy is to ensure efficient administration of the District, and the expeditious review of decisions rendered by the Board of Directors.

f. POLICY TITLE: Minutes of Board Meetings
POLICY NUMBER: 5060

5060.1 The Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors shall keep minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Board.

5060.1.1 Copies of a meeting's minutes shall be distributed to Directors as part of the information packet for the next regular meeting of the Board, at which time the Board will consider approving the minutes as presented or with modifications. **Once approved by the Board, the official minutes shall be kept in a fireproof vault or in a fire-resistant, locked cabinet.**

5060.1.2 Unless directed otherwise, an audio tape recording of regular and special meetings of the Board of Directors will be made. The device upon which the recording is stored shall be kept in a fireproof vault or in fire-resistant, locked cabinet for a minimum of 60 days. Members of the public may inspect recordings of Board meetings without charge on a playback machine that will be made available by the District.

5060.1.3 Motions, resolutions or ordinances shall be recorded in the minutes as having passed or failed, and individual votes will be recorded unless the action was unanimous. All resolutions and ordinances adopted by the Board shall be numbered consecutively, starting new at the beginning of each year. In addition to other information that the Board may deem to be of importance, the following information (if relevant) shall be included in each meeting's minutes:

Date, place and type of each meeting;
Directors present and absent by name;
Administrative staff present by name;
Call to order;
Time and name of late arriving Directors;
Time and name of early departing Directors;
Names of Directors absent during any agenda item upon which action was taken;
Summary record of staff reports;
Summary record of public comment regarding matters not on the agenda, including names of commentators;
Approval of the minutes or modified minutes of preceding meetings;
Approval of financial reports;

Record by number (a sequential range is acceptable) of all warrants approved for payment;
Complete information as to each subject of the Board's deliberation;
Record of the vote of each Director on every action item for which the vote was not unanimous;
Resolutions and ordinances described as to their substantive content and sequential numbering;
Record of all contracts and agreements, and their amendment, approved by the Board;
Approval of the annual budget;
Approval of all policies, rules and/or regulations;
Approval of all dispositions of District assets;
Approval of all purchases of District assets; and,
Time of meeting's adjournment.

POLICY TITLE: Rules of Order for Board and Committee Meetings
POLICY NUMBER: 5070

5070.1 General.

5070.1.1 Action items shall be brought before and considered by the Board by motion in accordance with this policy. These rules of order are intended to be informal and applied flexibly. The Board prefers a flexible form of meeting and, therefore, does not conduct its meetings under formalized rules - Robert's Rules of Order.

5070.1.1.1 If a Director believes order is not being maintained or procedures are not adequate, then he/she should raise a point of order - not requiring a second - to the Chairperson. If the ruling of the Chairperson is not satisfactory to the Director, then it may be appealed to the Board. A majority of the Board will govern and determine the point of order.

5070.2 Obtaining the Floor.

5070.2.1 Any Director desiring to speak should address the Chairperson and, upon recognition by the Chairperson, may address the subject under discussion.

5070.3 Motions.

5070.3.1 Any Director, including the Chairperson, may make or second a motion. A motion shall be brought and considered as follows:

5070.3.1.1 A Director makes a motion; another Director seconds the motion; and the Chairperson states the motion.

5070.3.2 Once the motion has been stated by the Chairperson, it is open to discussion and debate. After the matter has been fully debated, and after the public in attendance has had an opportunity to comment, the Chairperson will call for the vote.

5070.3.2.1 If the public in attendance has had an opportunity to comment on the proposed action, any Director may move to immediately bring the question being debated to a vote, suspending any further debate. The motion must be made, seconded, and approved by a majority vote of the Board.

5070.4 Secondary Motions. Ordinarily, only one motion can be considered at a time and a motion must be disposed of before any other motions or business are considered. There are a few exceptions to this general rule, though, where a secondary motion concerning the main motion may be made and considered before voting on the main motion.

5070.4.1 Motion to Amend. A main motion may be amended before it is voted on, either by the consent of the Directors who moved and seconded, or by a new motion and second.

5070.4.2 Motion to Table. A main motion may be indefinitely tabled before it is voted on by motion made to table, which is then seconded and approved by a majority vote of the Board.

5070.4.3 Motion to Postpone. A main motion may be postponed to a certain time by a motion to postpone, which is then seconded and approved by a majority vote of the Board.

5070.4.4 Motion to Refer to Committee. A main motion may be referred to a Board committee for further study and recommendation by a motion to refer to committee, which is then seconded and approved by a majority vote of the Board.

5070.4.5 Motion to Close Debate and Vote Immediately. As provided above, any Director may move to close debate and immediately vote on a main motion.

5070.4.6 Motion to Adjourn. A meeting may be adjourned by motion made, seconded, and approved by a majority vote of the Board before voting on a main motion.

5070.5 Decorum.

5070.5.1 The Chairperson shall take whatever actions are necessary and appropriate to preserve order and decorum during Board meetings, including public hearings. The Chairperson may eject any person or persons making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks, refusing to abide by a request from the Chairperson, or otherwise disrupting the meeting or hearing.

5070.5.2 The Chairperson may also declare a short recess during any meeting.

5070.6 Amendment of Rules of Order.

5070.6.1 By motion made, seconded and approved by a majority vote, the Board may, at its discretion and at any meeting: a) temporarily suspend these rules in whole or in part; b) amend these rules in whole or in part; or, c) both.