



"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."

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

Date: Friday, June 28th , 2024

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: 641 Entler Ave. Unit 47, Chico CA 95928

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 8:59 am

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - Chair Dave Lee, Directors Allen Harthorn, Samantha Lewis, Andrew Sohnrey, District Manager Thad Walker, Staff Cait Bell and 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) – No public present

(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 agendize 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 5 /16/2024 - A voting quorum of Directors who were present in May was not present in June, so item tabled until July.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Thad Walker/ Colleen Hatfield – Interim report this month only goes through 6/13 due to bookkeeper vacation. New fiscal year starts July 1st but we would like to wait until July for final review and approval of FY 2024-25 budget so that the Treasurer will be back in town. Board requested that monthly credit card statements be included in monthly Board reports from now on. Samantha moved to accept the financials, with the addition of VISA statements for this month and in the future. Andy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) Review of Changes to BCRCDD Policies and Procedures Section II updates -David Lee and Samantha Lewis – Additional time needed; Samantha moved to table item until next month. Andy seconded. Item tabled.
- c) Review Financial Manager Position Description -Thad Walker – Description has been revised to reflect that conservation sector experience is a plus but not required. Position currently requests both HR and financial experience, but can be scaled down in the future if we don't find an applicant who fulfills all our aspirations. Hourly wage range of "\$31-36" changed to "\$31+". With that change, Allen moved to post the description; Samantha seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- d) Forest Service Master Stewardship Agreement, Modification -Wolfy Rougle – Allen moved to accept and sign the modification Samantha seconded; motion passed unanimously
- e) Update and sample agreement with Blue Forest, Forest Resiliency Bond utilization for Upper Butte Creek (Information Only) -Thad Walker and Wolfy Rougle – Would do 2 things: 1) provide a 0% as-needed loan (Forest Resilience Bond) to cover cash flow gaps caused by reimbursement-based grants. 2) provide an avenue for certain funders, including e.g. the Metropolitan Water District, to contribute grant funds directly to the project that otherwise would not be invested in our region. Accepting 1) does not necessarily mean accepting 2) Thad Walker shared how the proposed MWD's investment comes from a fund that annually invests in science-based restoration projects such as Bay-Delta projects, including already investing \$30 million in the Butte Creek watershed, e.g. in fish passage infrastructure that was supported by a coalition of farmers, conservationists and water districts. Andy stated the Metropolitan Water District would not be investing in our watershed without a long-term goal of taking more water out of it. Samantha agreed and stated it must be recognized the watershed has MANY beneficiaries, not just Met Water.
- f) Augmentation to an agreement with Pacific Watershed Associates for Upper Butte- Wolfy Rougle – Would use existing WCB funding to pay PWA and their subcontractor, W Gilbert Engineering, to develop their existing Humbug Summit reroute 30% plans into 65% and ultimately 90% and 95% plans, working closely with BCPW which is very supportive of PWA's work to date. Allen moved, Andy seconded to accept the augmentation; motion passed unanimously.

- g) Agreement with Bella Forestry for Small Forest Landowner Assistance Program, Phase II Berry Creek -Cait Bell – Would finish work on 2 Berry Creek properties where especially steep slopes and sensitive creekside areas necessitate a re-visit to remove large trees that are in the wrong place. Other bidders weren't able to do both scopes of work at the same time (e.g. felling and chipping trees at once. Andy moved, Samantha seconded to accept the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- h) Agreement with MTN Consulting and Restoration for Willow Creek Meadow Wetland Delineation - Thad Walker – Would hire a meadow specialist, Noah Abramson, to do the wetland delineation that would support restoration permits for the meadow restoration after Humbug Summit Rd is ultimately removed from it. Allen moved, Andy seconded to accept the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- i) Dixon Hazard Fence Removal CEQA Notice of Exemption - Wolfy Rougle – Would remove over 7,000 feet of older barbed wire fence and replace it with about the same length of newer, wildlife-friendly fencing, such as what CDFW is using on all its preserves. Andy moved, Allen seconded to approve the NOE; motion passed unanimously.
- j) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA – Samantha stated that meeting more often in Chico instead of Oroville could have benefits and asked that the issue be placed on the agenda for future discussion by the group. Dave stated the July meeting will be in Oroville.

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

a) Project Updates – This month in the foothills, staff has been busy flagging and advancing SFLAP. Meanwhile in the upper watershed, half our staff took the Forest Service's daylong Forest Pests and Diseases class and also hosted a daylong tour of road crossings and in-stream habitat fixes planned in Upper Butte, even as we continue to work with LNF staff daily to work through the new California Spotted Owl regulations that have delayed the Upper Butte project NEPA. Frog surveys are complete in Butte Creek House. We also re-engaged with BLM on Forks of Butte; they had a meeting with Dallas this week, agreeing to move forward with NEPA on Forks of Butte this year. RCPP for almonds (through CARCD collaboration) has been submitted; a Healthy Soils RCPP (to fund unfunded applicant through CDFA's Healthy Soils Program) will soon be submitted (also through CARCD collaboration) as well.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – not present
- b) Butte County departments - not present
- c) Community groups – Friends of Butte Creek is getting close to 30% design on its floodplain restoration planning. All permits for removal of asphalt and bridge should be in place by July, with removal taking place in August. Dave asked what's happening in the lower section of Butte Creek? Allen responded, there's been a lot of talk about it but when it comes to actual floodplain restoration, no visible progress has been made. However, the duck clubs in the Butte Sink have been talking about salmon restoration more than ever before. This will take the shape of encouraging more salmon to take the best routes, and utilize the best juvenile rearing habitat, through the duck club.

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

10. CLOSED SESSION

a) Employee performance review – Board received employee performance reviews

11. ADJOURNMENT – 10:20 am

***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