



"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, September 17, 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 – Dave Lee, President

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - 9:00am: Chair Dave Lee, Directors Allen Hathorn, Jeff Carter, Andy Sohnrey; Treasurer Colleen Hatfield; District Manager Thad Walker, Staff Julia Sidman, David Mitchell, Dallas Koller, Faith Churchill; online guest Michael Miller and Amanda.

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))

No changes from staff, PBA update item left on agenda from last month.

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 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 8/20/26 - Allen moved, Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield

Still have the 2025/2026 budget to review with everyone - Cheryl will work with staff and present the final 25/26 budget at next month's board meeting. Also need to start the audit process; we have paid a deposit with the auditor so that contract is already in place.

Finances - some things have changed over the last month. The bank account shows we have more (\$644k) than we normally have due to many deposits in August (including July and August due to the fiscal year). The other thing to highlight is accounts receivable and accounts payable - we owe a lot more than we're supposed to get. This is due to the quarterly billing process: lots of flux and only in the second month of the quarter.

Profit/loss: gross profit is not as much as our expenses (negative again this month) but if you look at the cash basis we do not have a negative balance.

Compliments to the staff for invoices, lots of projects are caught up and we do not have a lot of outstanding balances.

Andy asked why there are three charges for the same amount from the Clerk Recorder on the credit card, wants to make sure we didn't get triple charged for something. Wolfy filed those so we'll figure that out when she gets back.

Discussion of quarterly billing and when things might balance out. A lot of invoicing for the end of the fiscal year. The overall financials for last fiscal year will probably come in the red with a potential deficit of \$12,000, which is the first time that has happened in awhile. This is due to a few reasons, including purchasing a vehicle, increased car expenses (fuel), audit cost, and mid-year staff wage increases.

BCRCB staff will likely bring a proposal next month for a NICRA - we are so heavy with federal money and our indirect rate with federal projects is very low currently; an increased indirect cost would ensure that we can recoup our overhead costs. Unfortunately it would not be a retroactive rate but we expect to receive more federal grants in the future. The cost of hiring a consultant to go through the process will be about \$10,000. Staff will be trained to work with Colleen and a bookkeeper to stay on top of invoicing for the NICRA. We received 1 proposal for the NICRA consultant; other people requested to do the NICRA *and* our audit, but we already have an auditor (in year 2 of our 3 year agreement and they do not offer NICRA services). CARCD will likely be hosting a seminar this month on overhead costs and indirect costs because many RCDs are dealing with this issue, including "full cost recovery" and it's a big topic right now.

Allen moved, Jeff seconded, motion passed unanimously at 9:15am.

- b) Resolution 09172026: BCRCD approval to serve as fiscal lead applicant for Sierra Nevada Conservancy Landscape Grant, Butte County Collaborative Group -Faith Churchill

BCCG is being evaluated under the SNC landscape grant program, which is a directed grant program. SNC has conducted an interview with representatives from the collaborative group. This resolution is looking to allow BCRCD staff to move forward with interest in serving as the fiscal lead for the grant proposal (or co-lead). We don't know that we have the grant yet, but we want to take preliminary steps to be prepared. This allows us to submit a letter of interest to the collaborative group, allows us to work on the final development for the project portfolio. The grant would be between \$8-10 million for about 10 organizations to receive funds. BCFSC has expressed interest in also being the fiscal lead, but would be open to co-leaders. Timeline: BCCG had the interview a few weeks ago, should hear back in early October if we are moving forward, and then likely will be decided in the SNC December board meeting.

Colleen moves, Jeff seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 9:18am.

- c) Grant agreement with North Valley Community Foundation for Fire Engine Build Project, Donna Murrill Memorial Fund- Dallas Koller

David Mitchell presenting. Applied for grant through the NVCF. \$10,784 received. The PBA will use the funds to purchase a 125 gallon slip-in unit that can go into any half ton truck. This will turn a truck into a type 7 engine. Also will buy some hand tools, brass, etc. and other tools to make an "instant engine." Grant does not cover any staff time. It is coming from QTAC so we are also supporting a local Chico business. The Butte PBA now has the capacity to bring about 800 gallons of mobile water to burns. Allen asked if this has foam capability - you can buy an add on, but we likely will put a tool box in that spot. We never really use foam for burns, but it could be added in the future.

Jeff moves, Andy seconds, motion passes unanimously at 9:23am.

- d) Agreement with Butte County Fire Safe Council for Upper Ridge Landscape Programmatic Prescribed Fire Plan, 00000363, -Dallas Koller

This is bringing us under contract with BCFSC to write a programmatic burn plan. Dallas wrote a burn plan for the Doe Mill area under a similar agreement. CALFIRE gives money to FSC and then they contract us. This burn plan covers about 28,000 acres of the "upper ridge area." Three distinct burn plans: two that are "burn day ready" and one that is larger and more theoretical - lots of different fuel types and parameters. The goal is for CALFIRE to be able to bring the large burn plan to their region to get approved. Would help speed up their process for burning. \$40,104 for the contract - all fee for service costs. We've been trying to expand the fee for service aspect of the fire program - brings a lot of money in for us and helps to expand opportunities.

Colleen requested information on the tight timeline in the contract, which begins 9/1 and ends the third week of October. The two smaller burn plans need to be completed by this date but there is some flexibility for the completion of the larger burn plan. Dallas feels confident that although it is a tight timeline he can get the plans completed. Allen requested a map which Dallas will send out via email.

Jeff motions, Colleen seconds. Passes unanimously at 9:29am.

- e) Agreement with Summit Forests, Inc. for Forks of Butte Roadside Hazard Fuels Reduction Project, Bureau of Land Management, Master Services Agreement - Dallas Koller

This is a contract for hazardous fuels reduction in FoB recreation area. 100ft on either side of the road running through nearly the entirety of the recreation area, although about ½ mile that won't be included because the FSC will be working on it again. The project is "up to" 63 acres. Hand cut and pile. BLM will burn the piles. We discussed chipping but it's a narrow road and didn't want to deal with the potential travel issues. \$1,766/acre roughly. Bids ranged from Summitt at the low end to nearly \$5k at the high end. Redwood submitted \$2,781. Low bid always raises concern, but we've worked with them plenty of times and they do a good job. Jeff inquired as to whether our insurer has looked at the indemnity agreement in the contract language and Thad assured that they have and approve of the language.

Jeff moves, Allen seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 9:32am.

- f) Agreement with Outlier Architecture for Colby Mountain Recreation Project, Architect and Engineering Services for National Forest Trailhead, Wildlife Conservation Board and Sierra Nevada Conservancy (1900-RT) -Thad Walker

One of our deliverables for the Colby Mountain Recreation Project is to build out a couple of trailheads. The Humboldt summit trailhead will be funded through WCB and the Hub trail head through SNC. We've done topographical surveys and have a preliminary plan already developed, we just need a site/grading plan for these two sites. We put out an RFQ for trailhead design: two proposals received, two well-respected contractors. Outlier Architecture had more experience working with forest service which is ideal. This is an NTE agreement for \$30k. Outlier feels comfortable they can complete it for this cost, though more funds would be ideal. Work must be complete by the end of 2027, and this is for pre-design and construction management/oversight. This is not actual construction, just oversight and management. They will do QAQC to make sure the plan is being followed.

Colleen moves, Allen seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 9:35am.

- g) Agreement with Chico State Enterprises (CSE) for the development of an educational curriculum for the Watershed Classroom Trail, Colby Mountain Recreation Project, Lassen National Forest, funded through Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) -Thad Walker\

Same project, similar funding (just WCB). Construction of a classroom trail and a curriculum framework that would accompany the trail - students studying natural sciences in 6th grade, they can have field trips and come up from the valley to learn about forest health, meadow restoration, headwaters, etc. Chico State will be working with us and are excited. Not a lot of money - \$10k - but looking at this as a way to start this process and will have to find more money to implement it and finish it all in the future. The money for the completion of the trail is in the WCB grant that we received. Working closely with Eli Goodsell and Anne Stevens at Chico state (lots of experience developing curriculum). 1 mile loop trail, stops along the way and some experiential activities. We would like to be able to put in interpretive panels in the future. We do have a lot of money for signage in the agreement - working with tribes, map signage, informational signs in the kiosks, other interpretive signage. But if there's money leftover then we might be able to use it for the interpretive signs. This is a lump sum based on deliverables.

Jeff moves, Colleen seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 9:40am.

- h) Time extension for Alvar Fence Co for Coutolenc MacNab Cypress Fencing project, Plumas National Forest -Thad Walker

This is Wolfy's project, she's out on vacation. Extension of time for the existing project from September 30th to January 31, 2027. Since this was a longer contract change request we wanted to amend the contract instead of just doing a change order. While the USFS gave the greenlight for the project to start, the fire shop did not want any welding on site. The contractor had already done a lot of work, so they will come back and finish the welding once we are out of fire season. The contractor has been great to work with and has been very flexible.

Allen moves, Jeff seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 9:43am.

- i) CEQA Notice of Exemption for Mooretown Cultural Landscape fire project 2026-27 -Faith Churchill

Wolfy's project. Just adding acres on to an existing NOE from 2025 - Mooretown's land off Lumpkin road. Additional 165 acres of burn units and an additional 1.1 miles of handline. No treatments have changed from the original NOE. Wolfy also consulted with the water board to ensure that the handline won't impact water quality. In the future the tribe will need a larger CEQA document for their land but for now they will just use this NOE.

Jeff moves, Allen seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 9:45am.

- j) CEQA Notice of Exemption for Butte Prescribed Burn Association's Programmatic Burn Plan for Timber Understory Units 2026 -Dallas Koller

Every year for the past two years the PBA has written a programmatic burn plan for as many landowners as we can fit into it, and then that information is used to fill out a CEQA NOE. NOEs are needed because we want these burn plans to go into the claims fund - allows us access to the state's \$2mil insurance policy, but you need to have CEQA and a CARX so the state claims fund can be accessed. This NOE is primarily for forested timber understory. On the NOE, the project title just says programmatic burn but it's specifically for the Timber Understory units.

Andy moves, Jeff seconds.

Collen asked if we had discussed this with our insurance company. We've been having many discussions with them about this and they are fine with it. A longer conversation will be needed re: insurance for fee-for-service burning.

Motion passes unanimously at 9:48am.

- k) CEQA Notice of Exemption for Butte Prescribed Burn Association's Programmatic Burn Plan for Oakwoodland and Brush Units 2026 -Dallas Koller

Same information as item j), just for the Oak woodland and brush programmatic burn plan.

Jeff moves, Andy seconds. Motion passes unanimously at 9:49am.

- l) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, October 15, 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

A number of the projects were updated on the Project Update document. The Colby Mountain Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is meeting next Tuesday 9/22 from 5-7 at BCAG. Everyone is welcome, and board members can even preside over it if you want! The person we hired to administer the TAC has been great to work with. We will bring back reports and summaries of the meetings to the board. The TAC is subject to Brown Act regulations. Lots of generalized interest from many different local organizations. It's a non-voting body but allows organizations to make recommendations, we will review this with the RCD board, and then give feedback to the Lassen National Forest.

9/25, next Friday for Wild and Scenic Film Festival tours, several of which will be hosted by BCRCD staff. The film festival will be held in Paradise on Friday night, 9/25.

Other staff updates include a comment on the amount of work happening in Concow, an RFB going out soon for the Humbug Road project in Upper Butte Creek, and last weekend Thad was invited to speak at the Butte Meadows / Jonesville community organization meeting.

Allen requested that the staff create a grant matrix similar to how CARCD staff presents grant information to their board. Allen will send an example to Thad and BCRCD staff will work to create this grant matrix.

b) Update on Butte Prescribed Burn Association (PBA) -Dallas Koller/ David Mitchell

This was leftover from the last agenda. But basically the PBA is just waiting for some rain. Lots of interest from landowners, lots of landowners have signed agreements with the PBA. Created lots of maps, plans. Might be able to burn in Butte Meadows around 10/1. Some professionals in Nevada County burned this summer - we're not there yet, but hopefully we'll get there at some point. Just had a conversation with Jason Finney (CALFIRE Chief) - he is open to giving us exemptions to start burning earlier, so the Butte Meadows burn might be the perfect test for an exemption burn. It would be a broadcast burn.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - not present
- b) Butte County departments - none present
- c) Community groups - none present

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

- a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report

Allen Harthorn reports that the CCCs have been onsite at the Butte Creek Ecological Preserve site clearing scotch broom the last 3 days. Their supervisor has spoken to BCFSC about doing some burning out there, but the RCD/PBA should be in the loop on that. 6 piles on one side, 2-3 piles on the other side that will need to be burned at some point. Most of the clearing was done to allow access for an excavator to dig observation wells. 14 sites identified and cleared. Contract signed with Knife

River to do the excavation - holes will be dug to put in perforated pipe, monitoring ground water level at all of these sites for the foreseeable future. Will be planting with native species. The CCCs offered at least 10 days of free work to the project which is amazing, mainly having them focused on invasive species removal.

For field trips for the Wild and Scenic Film Festival (weekend of Sept 26), there is very low registration for the upper watershed field trip. Considering postponing it but will let us know. There will be a special will call at the film festival and all BCRCD directors and staff will get in for free at the film festival. They have lots of good sponsors and appreciate the ability to allow people to get in to see the films. The night at the pageant theater has completely sold out! Part of the goal this year is to expand opportunities for people that they work with (the Butte Creek community) for field trips and getting them out into the watershed. This weekend, 60 people invited to Allen's house for catered appetizers, a saxophone quartet, and a silent auction to raise money.

Adjourned at 10:06am.

***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: bcrd@bcrd.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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