



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS Minutes

Date: **Thursday, May 21, 2020** Time: 9:00 AM Location:  
**No physical location**

#### NOTICE OF TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Pursuant to California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **the Butte County Resource Conservation District will be closing the May 21, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting to physical attendance by members of the public and nonessential District staff.** Additionally, members of the Board of Directors are allowed to attend the meeting via teleconference and to the same extent as if they were present.

Members of the public are encouraged to participate in the Board meeting in the following ways:

**1. Remote Viewing**

[h https://zoom.us/j/321411651](https://zoom.us/j/321411651) (Meeting ID: 321 411 651)

OR use One tap mobile: +16699006833, then enter 321411651#

**2. Public Comment**

Public Comment can also be submitted anytime via email at [bcrd@carcd.org](mailto:bcrd@carcd.org). Every effort will be made to provide Board Members with your comments before the agenda item is heard.

Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting

**1) CALL TO ORDER – Dave Lee, President**

**2) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Directors Dave Lee, John Christofferson, Allen Harthorn, Colleen Hatfield; associate director Mike Crump; staff Thad Walker, Wolfy Rougle, and Tim Keesey; District Conservationist Dan Taverner; community members Kelsey Kerston, M Knight, Mark Clark, C Meigs**

**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)**

(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:** Project Updates (see board packet).

6) **ACTION ITEMS** – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of the minutes of the BOD meeting held 4-16, 2020 – John moved to accept, Allen seconded, motion passed unanimously
- b) Review and Approve Outstanding Bills and Financials – Colleen Hatfield – Colleen noted our SDRMA dues (insurance) has gone up by 113%. FY 20-21 budget has been updated to reflect the increase. Colleen reported on some extra donations we have been invited to make on top of annual dues (e.g. to support RCD high school speak-off contestants, extra Farm Bureau add-ons) but recommended RCD not make the extra donations at this time. John motioned and Allen seconded that RCD pay Colleen’s schedule of bills as shown in accordance with her recommendations; motion passed unanimously. Colleen noted that since the April 16th BOD meeting, RCD had received \$155,000 in payments. Since we had many contractors who were waiting to be paid, some of whom are local individuals who can’t absorb big cash flow issues, Colleen took the initiative to pay \$50,000 worth of outstanding bills mid-cycle. (These bills had been reviewed by the Board on the previous month’s AP, and approved in principle, but shaded gray to show they would not get paid in that cycle because RCD did not yet have the funds to pay them.) Colleen checked in to see if it would be OK for her to continue this policy in the future. Board decided not to make any policy changes right now but to consider dividing future APs into three categories: “to be paid,” “not to be paid before next BOD meeting,” and “could be paid mid-cycle if money arrives”.
- c) Audit Update- Colleen Hatfield – (no action needed)
- d) Banking Update- Rabobank has been taken over by Mechanics Bank- Colleen Hatfield (no action needed). Transition will happen 5/29; new debit card will arrive and new sign-in will need to be created. After transition, at least Thad and accountant will get access to view the account. Ability to view transactions is important to help staff perform their invoicing and reporting functions.
- e) LAFCO Election Ballot- Dave Lee – John proposed the RCD cast its vote for Tom Lando. Board agreed to cast its vote for Lando.
- f) Staff Training: Harassment and Safety- Colleen Hatfield/ Allen Harthorn – Everybody who interacts with staff needs to take the Allevity training, including Associate Directors.
- g) Regional and State RCD update- Colleen Hatfield (no action needed) – CARCD meeting this year will be virtual (would have been in Santa Barbara). Registration fee will probably be about \$100 and attendance is expected to be much higher than usual. In other news, CARCD had been trying to get legislature to allocate permanent funding to RCDs, but due to COVID crisis this initiative has been shelved. Regional RCD collaborative is in process of hiring a grantwriter to work on regional priorities. Most recent Regional meeting had more regional BOD members than ever before (a benefit of holding the meeting by Zoom) and the meeting was very productive.
- h) BCRC Annual and Long Range Work Plan- Colleen Hatfield/ Thad Walker – Future DOC grants (an increasingly significant source of funding for RCDs) are likely to require that RCDs have these plans in place in order to be eligible for funding. Long Range plans are updated every 5 years. Getting these plans written within the next fiscal year is important and a good opportunity to ensure strategic plan and budget align. Having these plans in place is part of becoming a “Tier 1” RCD, as is having a complete P&Ps in place. To that end, Colleen also asked that we place P&Ps on our agenda for next month.
- i) 2020/ 2021 BCRC Budget- Colleen Hatfield/ Wolfy Rougle – Colleen would like to sit down with Dave, Wolfy and Thad before approving this budget next month.
- j) Big Chico Creek Forest Health Restoration Project Final CEQA Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), Notice of Determination (NOD), \$2,046.75 filing fee for CDFW, and \$50.00 filing fee for Butte County - Public/ Agency Comment period ended 5/18/20. RCD received 4 comments (CDFW, CalOES, and 2 from CVRWQCB, one of which was boilerplate notifications about needed permits). Tim integrated these

comments into the document by adding additional mitigations for erosion control and details about types of equipment and herbicides allowed. While no commercial timber is expected to be harvested under this project, the MND now notes that if that any timber harvest does happen then a separate THP will be developed first. The revisions also clarify the nature of the anticipated grazing (i.e., as a targeted forest health practice, not an ag operation with primarily economic motivation) and clarified that there will be no new roads or stream crossings. Also, before any project work occurs in riparian areas, revisions clarify that project partners will consult with CDFW. Colleen moved, Allen seconded, motion to approve MND, sign NOD and other needed documents, and pay filing fees; motion passed unanimously. Staff noted that if RCD's Prop 68 Forestry Assistance grant application is awarded, RCD will have the opportunity to implement this plan.

- k) Setting up a nonprofit fund through NVCF - Wolfy Rougle – John asked that RCD be able to designate more than one person to request the fees. Dave asked that “any Board member or District Manager” be authorized to request funds. Allen wondered and Colleen did too if we could widen the scope to include “watershed resilience post-Camp Fire” to be more than just planting trees; and also if we could set up a second acct at the same time for general activities (albeit at a higher rate). Board directed Wolfy to bring back the agreement(s) next month with the desired changes.
- l) CalRecycle agreements- Thad Walker and Shepard Smith – Shepard, who successfully developed this grant application, is in the field today; Board is asked to formally accept the funds. Allen moved that Dave sign the agreement. Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- m) BLM Hazard Tree Removal and Scope of Work Draft - Thad Walker – BLM is happy with our work to date on AML and other surveys and requested assistance from us in surveying hazard trees that could impact adjacent landowners. RCD would also administer contracts with tree removal contractors. BLM would advance RCD about \$45,000 to do the work under fee-for-service rates. Agreement could be supplemented with additional funds later. Board is asked to review the scope of work and, if it looks good, staff will pursue development of the actual agreement. Allen moved to accept the scope of work and direct staff to develop agreement, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- n) Agreement with Jessica Lopez, Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians - Wolfy Rougle – Colleen moved that Board accept and sign both this and the following item; Allen seconded; motion passed.
- o) Agreement with UCD Researchers to provide Concow monitoring plan - Wolfy Rougle – See above
- p) Agreement with Diane McCombs to provide archaeological services for City of Chico VFMP - Wolfy -John moved to accept, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- q) Agreement with Point Blue Conservation Science for Technical Assistance (monitoring, compliance and inventory)-Thad Walker – This would allow Carrie Wendt to assist RCD with forestry and other needs. John asked what kind of reporting PBCS would provide and noted that “trail layout” mentioned in B was never mentioned in A. Thad will confirm rate. Dan noted it will be important to keep separate track of the hours Carrie spends on NRCS and on EFRP tasks. John moved Board accept the agreement with PBCS after redefining the SOW and payment in Exhibit B. Allen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- r) Forestry Assistance for AFF and EFRP – Keesey – Tim had reached out to some forestry technicians for bids on helping RCD with the forestry work, but did not receive any, and has been able to cover the need by cross-training existing staff. Therefore, no action is needed on this item.
- s) Agreement with Water Quality Control Board for Dixie Road Project – Thad Walker – Board is asked to review and approve agreement for first approx. \$500,000; the additional funds to make up the total amount of \$775,000 will be authorized later, before implementation happens and indeed before any request for bids goes out. Colleen moved to approve current agreement so environmental review can commence, John seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- t) Agreement with Pacific Watershed and Associates for Dixie Road Project – Thad Walker – This agreement would cover PWA's technical assistance to RCD and materials budgeting as well as making

the actual payments to contractors. PWA would help RCD prepare bid documents but soliciting the bids would be the responsibility of RCD. John moved to accept the agreement, Allen seconded; Allen then asked why the “effective” date was May 21, 2019. Thad explained this was the date when WB said we could start billing against the agreement. Allen also asked why Thad’s name is there as the signer; Thad said it should be Dave’s name there and he would change it. With that change, motion to sign the agreement passed unanimously.

- u) Restoration of Walnut Orchard Bidwell-Sacramento State Park: Agreement with River Partners- Thad Walker – Because RiverPartners’ bid (the only bid received) exceeded the amount available, this project needed to be revised to make the project feasible. To achieve that, all monitoring will be removed (State Parks will take it on) along with years 2 and 3 of maintenance (State Parks will assume that responsibility too). The project now consists of orchard removal, installation, and one year of monitoring. Upon completion of that timeframe, State Parks would either take over remaining tasks, or an additional agreement would be executed to allow RCD/contractors to proceed with years 2-3 of maintenance, monitoring etc. This agreement, if Board signs it, is contingent on RiverPartners agreeing to the forthcoming change order that will reflect the changes above. The agreement also authorizes a designated RCD representative (whoever is acting DM) to approve that change order without a formal BOD vote. John moved, Allen seconded to approve and sign this agreement. Motion passed unanimously.
- v) Restoration of Walnut Orchard Bidwell-Sacramento State Park: Monitoring Agreement with Tribe- Thad Walker – The above agreement includes \$9,000 for Tribal monitoring of the sensitive site while heavy equipment is present; this item is an agreement with the Mechoopda Tribe to do that monitoring. Mechoopda Tribe has an existing agreement with State Parks that spells out insurance requirements etc which is why the present item has no insurance clause; John suggested such a clause be added to this agreement anyway. Dave agreed. John moved that Board approve the agreement once an insurance provision is included. Allen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- w) Application for Sierra Nevada Alliance 2021-22 Americorps member (SNAP) -Wolfy Rougle – John moved to re-apply, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- x) Approval to become Sierra Nevada Alliance member group (if applying for SNAP member) - Wolfy Rougle – Colleen moved to pay the \$275 for this calendar year; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- y) Letter of Support for American Forest Foundation (AFF) CALFIRE Wildfire Resiliency Grant application. – Allen moved to approve the LOS, Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- z) Next Meeting of BCRCB BOD- Thursday June 18th @ 9 AM.

## **7) RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

- a) Update – See staff updates in BOD packet. Thad added our conservation planning agreement with NRCS has about \$25,000 left in it but is close to expiring and will not be renewed. Our engineering assistance agreement is also used up but has a decent chance of being renewed for \$100,000. We don’t yet have a date on when we’ll find out for sure.
- b) Kelsey Kerston, a CSUC grad and former Paradise resident (now Concow resident living on 60 acres she is working to restore) who has worked in livestock organic certification (CCOF) for 4 years, had reached out to the RCD about becoming more involved in conservation in Butte County. She introduced herself and board and staff said they were looking forward to learning more about her and working on issues of mutual interest.
- c) Tim provided an update on Granite Basin: He is working to revitalize the Swain Railroad Grade trail option because the alternative trail layout would be in many ways worse (would necessitate a bridge and would go through SNYLF habitat, violating PNF’s programmatic agreement with USFWS). An

upcoming IDT meeting will address this.

- d) Tim is creating an EFRP implementation committee so local FSA, state FSA, USFS, CARCD, AFF, and BCRCDC can all be present at the table and working through how to implement this program. Tim's hours to convene this committee can be billed to EFRP. EFRP payments update: We are at the final step where FSA-USFS agreement is worked out, FSA has authorized all the payments, and USFS is just about to send money to CARCD who will pay us. Our great CARCD contact, Jenn Shepard, will be leaving June 1.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – Today NRCS will approve 7 NAQI applicants for a total of \$1.3M. NRCS was recently informed they will be opening the office again soon, with some mitigation measures (masks etc). Carrie Wendt is back on board as an NRCS affiliate.
- b) Butte County departments - None
- c) Community groups and agencies – None

John requested that the BOD packet include divisions or blank spaces between documents or some other way to make it easy to know where one ends and the next begins. Thad suggested

Allen requested that the BOD agenda include "Action Item" for items that require a motion or other action.

**9) CLOSED SESSION – Directors only**

- a) Personnel Discussion

## 10) BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

## 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: [bcrd@carcd.org](mailto:bcrd@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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