



"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."

150 Chuck Yeager Way, Ste. A, Oroville, CA 95965 * (530) 693-3173 * bcrd@carcd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 16, 2025

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 – 9:03 am
- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – **Chair** Dave Lee, **Treasurer** Colleen Hatfield, **Directors** Andrew Sohnrey, **District Manager** Thad Walker, **Staff** Wolfy Rougle, Cait Bell, Faith Churchill, **Guests** from BEC: Morgan Collings (she/her), Valeria Cisneros, and Emily (all California Climate Action Corps Fellows); and Patrizia Hieronmus (Executive Director).
- 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 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 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 12/19/2024.
- b) Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 11/21/2024.

Board did not have a quorum for approval of the November minutes until Allen returns. Therefore, Andy moved, Colleen seconded, to pull b) but approve a). Motion passed unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield – We are experiencing the crunch with delayed CAL FIRE reimbursements, but apart from that our receivables are only about \$30,000 short of our accounts payable, and this is accounted for by invoices staff have yet to send in. February/March will be the great test of this, as the 4Q 2024 invoices finally come in. RFFCP-962 will be closed out this month and BCRCD should be made whole for all withholding, etc., by sometime in March. Andy moved, Colleen moved to accept the financials; motion passed unanimously. (P.S.: Golden Valley new accounts have been set up and are waiting for Andrew and Dave’s signature, at an interest rate of 0.03% which is triple what we were getting with Mechanics.)

- b) Board of Director Leadership Positions for 2025 -David Lee – Board elections should be held yearly per bylaws. (this does not mean electing new directors; rather, it means assigning internal board positions among the Directors who are already on the board) Andy moved to preserve the slate as follows:

Chair- Colleen moved to nominate Dave, Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair - Colleen moved to nominate Andy, Andy seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer – Dave nominated Colleen, Andrew seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Secretary -Colleen moved to table until the missing chair is filled; Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.

The only committees Dave would like to see are 1) bylaws review and revision, which Dave nominated Andy and Allen to fill, with help from Thad. (For example, some roles and responsibilities of the Chair need to be clarified, and the role of a Treasurer needs to be added. 2) Finance Committee to help Colleen (Dave asked Colleen to name whomever she’d like to assist her). If another committee becomes necessary at any time during the coming year, the bylaws have plenty of provision for ad hoc committees.

- c) Review or organization compensation chart and proposed updates - Thad Walker – With staff having grown from 2 to 9 in six years, it’s a good time to formalize a compensation structure that explicitly shows the compensation range and steps for each position and provides a framework for how staff can progress (e.g. through continuing education, experience, etc.). This will help BCRCD stay competitive as an employer. Colleen moved to accept the compensation chart as prepared by the District Manager; Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- d) Review of District Manager compensation and proposed increase -Colleen Hatfield – Now that the compensation ranges are established, Colleen moved Thad Walker’s compensation be changed from the Program Manager range to the District Manager range at \$88,000/year, effective January 1, 2025. Andy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- e) Extension of Contract with Pacific Watershed Associates for Butte Creek Post Camp Fire Watershed Recovery Project, Centerville Road -Thad Walker – Time extension only, no change in budget. Colleen moved, Andy seconded to accept the extension; motion passed unanimously.

- f) Extension of agreement with Wildlife Conservation Board for Upper Butte Creek project - Wolfy Rougle – Would extend the deadline from March 2025 to September 2026, due to NEPA delays beyond our (or, in most cases, even the Almanor Ranger District’s) control. Colleen moved, Andy seconded to sign the extension; motion passed unanimously.
- g) Agreement with Butte County Fire Safety Council for Maple Creek Ranch Hazard Tree Removal and Water Line Repair project - Dallas Koller – Presented by Thad because Dallas is out getting fire on the ground in Forest Ranch due to a good burn window. This would use remaining CAL FIRE agreement funding still held by BCRCD, to do important post-Park Fire-suppression repair work to water systems on the strategically important Maple Creek Ranch. Andy moved to accept the agreement, Colleen seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- h) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates – Dallas is digging in on the BLM Forks of Butte NEPA, specialist surveys will commence this early spring. Agreement with Butte County for the Butte Creek riparian restoration on the CDFW preserve will come to the board soon. Dallas was able to complete all the field work for the Fall River contract burn plan and will write the burn plan this month. Successful burns took place last Friday, yesterday, and will happen today. Rangeland oak woodland projects, albeit relatively small, are expected to go forward with Red Boot Ecology (Alex Palmerlee) and with a 10,000-acre landowner affected by the Park Fire north of Chico. Faith announced the field tour that will happen next Wednesday, 1/22. This will be the Phase 2 Technical Advisory Committee tour to view last year’s PBR structures in Big Chico Creek Canyon and to plan the upcoming year’s work.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – n/a
- b) Butte County departments – n/a
- c) Community groups – BEC reported that it’s helpful for them to drop in on our meeting, see how BCRCD funds its projects and writes its costs into its grants, etc. They have also visited Fire Safe Council meetings for the same reason. The now 50-year-old BEC is looking into CA Prop 4 climate resilience funds to develop ways to sustain their local nonprofit. For example, BEC plans to work with CSE Ecotherapy, BCFSC, Camp Fire Restoration and PRPD to do more work in biochar education and a good fire workshop on BCEP (first weekend in March). BEC brings to the table their Climate Action fellows and a big volunteer network and would love to be invited/written to share in future community-based projects with BCRCD. BEC will continue the Endangered Species Faire, revive the Chico Bicycle Music Festival, will be at the Wildflower Festival and Arbor Day festival, etc. They also continue to run their water conservation and in-school educational activity programs.

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

10. ADJOURNMENT – 9:58 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.