



*"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: Thursday, November 21, 2024**

**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** – Chair Dave Lee, Treasurer Colleen Hatfield, Director Allen Harthorn; District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Dallas Koller, Julia Sidman, and Wolfy Rougle. Guests: Thor Bailey; NRCS District Conservationist Dan Taverner

**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 10/17/2024 – Allen moved, Colleen seconded to accept the minutes; motion passed unanimously.

## **6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President**

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield – Colleen reviewed the year-end and quarter-end reporting put together by Cheryl. It included budget-to-actuals. These showed that BCRCD's gross income was much lower than expected (due largely to a single big project that ended up not happening during the period, i.e. Centerville Rd project), but expenses were *also* much lower (for the same reason) -- resulting in a net income that was within 1% of prediction for the year.

Colleen pointed out how active a single month (October) can be with so many projects going on. We closed the month with a positive general account balance of \$247,000 and our accts receivable balance is bigger than our accts payable.

Dave asked if there's a way to get a better view of what all the credit card expenses are for. Thad stated that staff adds the project/class name to each CC purchase receipt filename, at the time of upload to Drive. So, the Board could request that the bookkeeper capture each expense's project/class name and incorporate that detail into the monthly board report. Allen added that he himself isn't always sure how to interpret the financials (beyond the main "headlines", that is). He stated it would be great to have a meeting between the Board, Thad and Wolfy, and Cheryl at some point to learn how to read the financials in detail.

Allen moved, Colleen seconded to accept the minutes; motion passed unanimously.

- b) Review of proposed By-Law Changes for CARCD Annual Meeting -Colleen Hatfield – CARCD is a non-profit whose goal is to help RCDs statewide. They are one of our major funders. This past year, several RCDs have proposed bylaws updates which will be voted on, as resolutions, at CARCD's upcoming big annual meeting in November. (Then, any changes would be actually written into CARCD's bylaws next spring.) Colleen stated 4 of these 6 proposed resolutions make excellent sense. (These are: setting up an education committee, finance committee, policy committee, and bylaws committee itself). A 5<sup>th</sup> resolution would address recent substantial increases in RCDs' dues. The 6<sup>th</sup> resolution concerns the Brown Act (but the Policy Committee, on which Colleen sits, recommends hiring an attorney first to determine whether CARCD must follow the Brown Act (as individual RCDs must, but 501(c)3s need not). Colleen recommends BCRCD resolve to vote yes on the first 4 resolutions, no on the second 2, as RCDs have not been provided with enough information yet to decide on those last 2. Colleen moved to vote as such, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- c) Edits to Agreement for Service of Independent Contractor Template -Thad Walker – These edits would replace language in provision #14, our non-discrimination clause, which turns out to reference a section of Butte County Government Code that doesn't actually exist. Staff has looked at other County nondiscrimination language (including what BCRCD already agrees to in our existing agreements with the County) and recommends an alternative wording. Colleen moved to accept the new wording and use it in our standard independent contractor agreements going forward; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- d) Review of Allevery Employee Handbook – Informational - BCRCD utilizes leased employees from Allevery Employment Solutions, so our employees are subject to Allevery's employment handbook. That means BCRCD can't simply create its own employee handbook; however, BCRCD can propose some BCRCD-specific updates to be incorporated into Allevery's handbook for our

employees to be subject to. An example would be our fuel card policy. Thad Walker reviewed for the Board recent changes to the Alleivity handbook, which they update on an ongoing basis as employment law changes over time.

- e) Contract with Burn Bot for Rx Support Services to Plumas National Forest (PNF) – Dallas Koller – This and the next 2 agreements build on the 2 the board approved last month; i.e., they are IDIQ contracts (with rates locked-in for the next 3 years) with fuels reduction contractors who can fulfill deliverables under our PNF Rx Support SPA. BurnBot is a very high-tech company that develops and deploys unique Rx fire solutions such as a remote masticator, drone-based aerial ignition technologies, automated blacklining machines, etc., all of which can excel in certain types of terrain. Check them out on YouTube! BurnBot also fields a talented (human) Rx fire module which is competitive in price with other contractors. Allen moved to accept the agreement; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- f) Contract with Terra Fuego for Rx Support Services to Plumas National Forest - Dallas Koller – Terra Fuego is a Chico-based 501(c)3 that is part of the Firestorm family of organizations and implements hundreds to thousands of acres of Rx fire around Northern California each year. Colleen moved to accept the agreement; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- g) Contract with Cali Dozer Co. for Rx Support Services to PNF - Dallas Koller – Cali Dozer is owned and operated by Joel White, who also operates Butte Valley Soil Company now. Cali Dozer specializes in heavy equipment on wildfire suppression (1 dozer and 2 water tenders), and also holds an LTO; the firm works regularly for CAL FIRE and USFS. Colleen moved to accept the agreement; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- h) Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Deer Creek Resources for Incident Team Management planning position in support of Cal TREX events - Dallas Koller – Extends a similar agreement we developed with DCR a few months ago and successfully expended. DCR provides a wide array of invaluable support services for Cal-TREX. Allen moved to accept the agreement; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- i) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

## 7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates- The last couple of months have been intense with implementation, maybe the busiest implementation season for the RCD ever. Last week we closed out our **Butte Creek House** implementation (we got in about 90% of the structures we planned to build this year, and we'll be back next year to reinforce and supplement them). Staff also met with the CDFW beaver reintroduction team and BCH was deemed a high quality site for beaver reintroduction! **Colby Mtn:** 2.5 miles of really high-quality trail were put on the ground before deep snow fell; 10 mor miles to be built next year, as we actively look for more funding to finish the rest. We are still eligible for GAOA funding for the parking lot expansion if GAOA gets renewed. **PBRs in the Park** – over 700 structures were built in about 6 weeks of work with a diverse team of workers from BCCER, CCCs, technical experts from the private sector/restoration nonprofits, and 2 Tribes. As of yesterday, work has been called off for the big rains; may resume if we get a stable and safe spell of weather. Julia Sidman is jumping in with both feet to our forestry work and will be focusing on developing new funding source for **SFLAP** this winter, among other tasks. State Budget doesn't look amazing this year, BUT Prop 4 passed and will fund a big new infusion of **RFFCP funds**, for which BCRCD is the main subgrantee in Butte County. Dallas stated that on Nov 15, BCRCD/**Butte PBA** in partnership with Firestorm, BCCER and the Mechoopda Tribe burned 130 acres of the Mechoopda's grassland, tying right into CAL FIRE's burns from a couple months ago. Ignitions started at 1245, wrapped up at 1530. LNF: **Upper Butte Creek project** is back in gear and EA expected out for legal notice and comment period beginning of March.

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

a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – NRCS has hired a new engineer, who comes to us from FS. NRCS has a new way of funding WMEs (Water Management Entities) which cuts down on paperwork, and should expedite e.g. replacing the pipeline for the Lake Madrone water users. NRCS will also be able to provide some assistance (unfortunately not complete replacement) to the lower Cherokee canal weirs that were blown out in storms, as well as help replace weirs used by a nearby rice farmer. It's been a difficult road for NRCS since the Camp Fire: NRCS has grown from 2 employees to 8 in the last 6 years, and from funding 1-2 million dollars' worth of projects to 6.5 million dollars' worth. Staffing is only now catching up to the increased funding level, so there is a lot of work to do and almost 200 EQIP applicants this year – but at the same time, other NRCS field offices (in e.g. Lake County, etc) are already filing requests to borrow the staff who only just arrived at the Oroville FO!

Allen mentioned there is a lot of potential for NRCS to assist duck clubs with projects that benefit the salmon. The duck club-rich area of the Butte Sink is a critical link in salmon migration. At times, irrigation choices have stranded and killed salmon.

For Park Fire recovery for forestland owners, Dan recommends going direct with NRCS instead of going through FSA to access EFRP.

- b) Butte County departments
- c) Community groups

## 9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report – Dave asked Allen to report on the Butte Creek meeting which took place a few days ago. Allen stated SWRCB has selected 3 target watershed (Napa, Navarro, and Butte Cr) to do supply-and-demand water assessments. SWRCB is pretty far along with Napa and working closely w/ Napa GSA; but they're just getting started with Butte County. Essentially, SWRCB has a water model (rainfall, evapotranspiration, etc), and they'll look at where the water's coming from (inputs to the system) and, presumably, where it's going, in hopes of coming up with a “proactive” way to deal with drought conditions. But SWRCB is only looking at surface water, not groundwater. Still, they have to address the interconnections sooner or later: Below the Midway, groundwater is supporting Butte Creek flow! The two need to be managed in concert, so Butte County Dept of Water and Resource Conservation and SWRCB will hopefully be collaborating more closely very soon.

SWRCB's look is pretty much restricted to the adjudicated section of Butte Creek, which is from Parrott-Phelan Dam to Gorrill dam. But, it includes the inputs from West Br Feather and from Little Butte Creek.

Allen has been tracking streamflows and Big Chico Cr is over 1100 cfs right now, with Butte Creek only about 800 cfs, even though Big Chico Creek is usually less than Butte. (This is attributable to the greatly reduced infiltration in Big Chico Cr watershed right now due to Park Fire, but as snow level rises & snow melts in the upper Butte watershed, we would expect the 2 creeks to become closer to each other in flow.)

## 10. 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: [bcrcd@carcd.org](mailto: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*

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