



"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, February 15, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM

**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 – 9:00 am
- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Dave Lee, Treasurer Colleen Hatfield, Director Andrew Sohnrey, District Manager Thad Walker, Staff Wolfy Rougle, Dallas Koller, Faith Churchill. Rhianna Dutra of Chico State Enterprises also attended.
- 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 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 BOD meeting held on 1/18/2024**

Colleen moved, Andrew seconded to accept the consent agenda; motion passed unanimously

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) **Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield** – Cheryl the bookkeeper plans to try out some modifications to the monthly board reports to make them more helpful, any feedback is welcome. Our total bank acct assets are \$1.7 M, but keep in mind that over \$900K of that is the Cottonwood endowment, which we don't have access to. The endowment and our fixed assets will be reflected on the balance sheet from now on. As time goes on, we have seen and will continue to see more and more of our grants being invoiced/paid quarterly, which will cause visible cash flow fluctuations on the *monthly* balance sheets. We are well positioned to absorb them. Andrew moved, Colleen seconded, to approve the financials; motion passed unanimously.
- Colleen stated the audit has gone well and Colleen's and Cheryl's preference would be to retain the same auditor for the upcoming year. A proposal from the auditor will be entertained at the next board meeting.
- b) **Designation of BCRC D Delegate for California Association of Resource Conservation District, Special Meeting -Thad Walker** – The annual meeting of RCD board representatives (one RCD, one vote) had to be called off in 2023 for lack of a quorum. Dave and Andrew nominated Colleen.
- c) **Agreement with Point Blue Conservation Science for Sierra Meadow Restoration Project Funding, Butte Creek House Meadow #WCB-BCRC D-2 -Faith Churchill** – CEQA is all done for Butte Creek House and the permits are getting close to final. This grant funds the implementation phase to the tune of \$400,000, with about \$33,000 for BCRC D staff time. 2024 would be the big earthmoving season (working during the season of lowest flow) and 2025 would be the lower-tech follow-up (e.g. beaver dam analogues (BDAs) and other process-based techniques). The project includes training the CDFW lands crew to build and maintain BDAs. Colleen moved, Andrew seconded, to approve the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- d) **Agreement Modification with Pacific Watershed Associates for D2113514 Butte Creek Camp Fire Post-Fire Restoration Project, Centerville Road -Thad Walker** – After changes in administration, the County has asked us to deliver full engineering plans (which wasn't originally required) plus a compaction study. The Water Board has allowed us to move some money from the implementation category to the technical assistance category to fulfill these requirements, plus extend the agreement by a year. Andrew moved, Colleen seconded, to approve the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- e) **Renewal of Service Provider Agreement with Chico Public Works -Thad Walker** – BCRC D has had this agreement in place for a while; now we are simply extending it and updating it with our new fee-for-service rates. Colleen moved, Andrew seconded, to approve the agreement; motion passed unanimously.
- f) **Modification to an agreement with Chico State Enterprises /Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve to support forestry services for Small Forest Landowner Assistance Program-Wolfe Rouse**. Extends our existing agreement with CSE through the end of Nov 2024, and adds about \$60K to cover that extended RPF support through the end of the year. CSE charges a fee-for-service rate of \$89/hr for RPF services and does not charge additional overhead on top of that (but an 18.5% indirect charge is levied on all non-personnel charges). CSE's forester is already familiar with the project from working on it the last year or so and is working well with

Ben Converse, our forestry technician. Reminder to change “Tenn” to “Term” on p 4. With that change, Andrew moved, Colleen seconded, to approve the agreement; motion passed unanimously.

- g) **Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, March 21, 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** – There are at least 2 new projects Board will be seeing every month from now on: PNF Camp Fire Settlement Funds and RCPP/EQIP projects. Upper Butte Creek: Blue Forest Conservation is interested in helping to finance the implementation of the project through a Forest Resiliency Bond (FRB), and have been in regular touch with staff and Colleen and Cheryl. Margo Flynn, the new Healthy Soils Hub Coordinator for the Sacramento Valley RCDs, is based at Colusa County and will be working with us to assess our needs/gaps in healthy soils programming and can even write grants on our behalf to fund future ag-facing programs. She should be a great resource in growing our ag assistance capacity. Camp Fire Settlement Funds – BCRCDC has been asked by PNF to deliver assistance with fuels reduction, resource surveys, roads maintenance, and ordering resources for prescribed fire activities. Building on our existing master stewardship agreement and the several projects we have already successfully implemented, the new work would get done through 2 new agreements between BCRCDC and PNF, together worth \$30 million over 10 years. Even though money is flooding in to the Plumas, most other Forests are experiencing cutbacks and being asked once again to “do more with less,” so we should still be aware the Lassen might be affected by cutbacks.

Everyone on staff who works in forestry projects (so, everyone) will be attending the two-day LTO class at Shasta College this spring. This will be a great refresher/demystifier on the CA Forest Practice Rules, working with contractors, and the types of skills needed to successfully implement programs such as SFLAP. To extend the SFLAP program past 2024, moreover, Dallas and ben are applying for a CAL FIRE wildfire resilience block grant tailor-made for RCDs who are delivering programs such as SFLAP. CAL FIRE has also asked us to extend our successful technical assistance contract with them.

Strategic Planning: Committee has had its first meeting (Thad, Wolfy, Colleen, and Joy Luhan from the Solid Ground consulting firm). This will lead to a full-day workshop/retreat for the Board, tentatively scheduled for the week of May 6th. Thad will reach out to all BOD members to schedule the board retreat. Thad will also reach out to board members for recommendations on which key partners Solid Ground should be interviewing to get a sense of BCRCDC’s capacity gaps, strategic strengths and areas of weakness. The strategic plan will deliver actionable recommendations, not just a broad overview of mission/vision. Joy will present an overview of the strategic process at the March BOD meeting.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- b) Butte County departments
- c) Community groups
- d) Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve/CSE: Rhianna Dutra was present and the Board thanked her for stepping in and helping us with SFLAP.

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

- Dave mentioned Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation's plans (discussed at the most recent BOS meeting) around flooding Valley fields to improve groundwater recharge. This doesn't work on all or most Valley soils but targeting the right precise areas (often almond orchards and pastures along alluvial zones) can aid in recharge. BCDWRC would be a good invitee to provide strategic plan input, as would CAL FIRE, USFS, UCANR and Farm Bureau (which might be able to help us understand how we can partner more with them/farmers as the FB already delivers a lot of programs which are common for RCDs to deliver). Solid Ground can meet with interviewees individually or also as a focus group (for example, an ag focus group which could include FB, UCANR, Ag commissioner).

-Colleen mentioned that Cheryl will have more time soon, due to a large client switching to its parent corporation's bookkeeping services. This means we could enlist Cheryl, who already knows our business well and works with us well, for additional hours/tasks. Could include working on developing a federally negotiated indirect cost rate (NICRA). Could even include bringing HR in-house and saving money. Colleen observed we are getting big enough now that we may want to look at bringing on a full-time financial officer/controller.

For next month: All Directors please look over Section 5 of P&Ps; this section will be brought back at March meeting for review followed by adoption. We will work through the sections one by one over the course of the year.

ADJOURNMENT – 10:12 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: bercd@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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