

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES**Date: Thursday March 21, 2019****Time: 9:00 AM****Location:** 202 Mira Loma Dr., Truckee Conference Room, Oroville, CA 95965

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President. 9:07 am
- 2) **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Dave Lee, President. Present: Directors Harthorn, Lee, and Christofferson. Staff Wolfy Rougle, Thad Walker, and Tim Keesey. Dan Taverner, District Conservationist.
- 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))
 - i) 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) **ACTION ITEMS** – Dave Lee, President
 - a) **Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting held February 21, 2019.** John moved, Allen seconded, motion passed
 - b) **Review and Approve Outstanding Bills** – Included tools, portable toilets, refreshments, contractors/educators, and seedlings for the One Tree Planted planting day, monthly technology charges, and other items. John moved to pay the items, except only pay PWA invoices and McComb archaeology pending County reimbursement.
 - c) **Bookkeeper report – Director Hatfield** – Director Hatfield was not present; no other issues.
 - d) **Continuing upgrade of BCRC D webpage –staff** Website is developing well, will be updated post -planting day with professional photography taken during the event. BCRC D webpage is showing up on first page of results for Butte Recovers, so some people searching for fire recovery info are going ahead and clicking through to our site as well.
 - e) **Amend Contract with McCombs Archaeology – Tim Keesey** The budget was rearranged to take money from biology line item and move to archaeology line item, without detriment to biology deliverables. Meanwhile, draft report has been completed and submitted to Forest Service for review.
 - f) **One Tree Planted Partnership and work day – staff** Global reforestation nonprofit One Tree Planted approached RCD about a volunteer workday. RCD identified a site with an existing

2012 forest plan, willing and knowledgeable landowner, and no hazard trees. Lynn and Diane Pekarek are the landowners. All tools and needed supplies have been purchased – and will remain property of RCD for future projects. Dan T. explained the One Tree Planted event is a great stepping stone to additional forestry projects, which will be facilitated by the relationships RCD is developing with American Forest Foundation and NRCS' upcoming forester contract. Species are Doug Fir and (mostly) Ponderosa Pine, seed zone-appropriate. These species were identified in the landowner's plan.

- g) **Payment of Cal Fire Archeology Refresher course – Tim Keeseey** – Tim asked that the RCD pay ½ of his required archaeology refresher course, which would be \$90. John moved to pay the full amount (\$180) and Allen seconded. Motion passed.
- h) **Emergency Watershed Protection Grant with NRCS for Pulga – staff** – The NRCS engineer, Lyle, has submitted the erosion control plan and NEPA has been done on it, so it's up to the landowner to follow through and complete final submission. Time is of the essence. Thad volunteered to check in with Radley who has a direct connection to the landowner. If submitted and approved, the main impact to RCD would be more hours and funding for Jay. No other updates.
- i) **Emergency Agreement with Butte County and Pacific Watershed for Dixie Rd. – staff** – County is reviewing agreement now and it should be ready for RCD Board review by the end of the week. Since it is an emergency item, President will be able to sign on it without a special board meeting. About \$680,000 project with about \$40,000 for RCD involvement.
- j) **North Valley Community Foundation Grant for Reforestation Workshops – staff** – Grant was not accepted, but took only a few hours to write, and provided RCD with an opportunity to develop a budget for educational outreach that can be re-submitted quickly
- k) **MOU with Feather River RCD – Wolfy Rougle** – John moved that Dave sign the MOU, Allen seconded, motion passed.
- l) **Weed management Grant – Wolfy Rougle** – CDFA has made a one-time bucket of funding available (**\$2 million**) in \$60,000 grants to ag departments, County offices, and RCDs. Butte County ag dept is not interested in applying. Several entities have approached the RCD about co-writing grants. The community partner that seems most likely to follow through is Dulcy Schroeder and her friend Dorr. Dorr has grantwriting experience and intends to write a broom eradication grant for the forest roads (with focus on evacuation routes) of Butte County. RCD would then review the grant, write funding in for itself, and submit as the fiscal sponsor. Deadline is April 5th.

The Board asked if the City of Chico was interested in writing a grant for the Little Chico Ck Arundo eradication project. Staff replied that they had reached out to City of Chico 3 or 4 times and had not yet received an email back.

John then mentioned that in Keefer Slough (unincorporated Butte County), the Arundo issue is causing flooding (watercourses plugged by Arundo). Thad will follow up with Radley to ask if an Arundo eradication grant should be written for this area. Allen mentioned that when broom gets 10' tall and real decadent, it won't stump-sprout after being cut. This is an alternative to herbicide under the right conditions. Allen also mentioned that broom is a serious problem in Butte Creek streamcourse as well as that of Chico Ck, where herbicides are not appropriate; he asked if a future weed management grant could be written for hand crews and weed wrenches for these areas. Board made and passed a motion that Wolfy pursue the broom grant as long as it is primarily written by Dulcy and Dorr or other community partners; and Thad pursue the Arundo reduction with BC Public Works/Radley.

- m) **Next meeting date April 18, 2019 at 202 Mira Loma Drive Oroville at 9:00am.**

6) **RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS**

- a) **NRCS Agreement – Dan Taverner** – CSP is finishing up, payments to farmers for flooded fields are going out, and RCD helped with shorebird checks. Dan explained USDA policy that

in the service center where RCD has its office, the public area is in front of the counter – no members of the public should be behind the counter unless escorted by a staff person. Public must use the only public entrance, the main entrance – all side entrances are for employees only. Dan is trying to secure a forestry contract for 2 years. On Saturday afternoon 3/23, Dan is meeting with landowners/irrigators affected by the loss of the Miocene Canal, as well as staff from Rural Development; NRCS' hope is to replace some of the lost water by funding stock water wells. This requires a grazing management plan for livestock. There is also the possibility that the landowners could band together and form a new district under LAFCO to maintain and restore the conveyance, possibly funded by RD loans or grants. If political pressure could induce PG&E to deed the conveyance over to the landowners (and/or Cal Water?), that would be a first step. When Sierra Silica stopped using the water from that ditch, it reduced the overall political power of the users. Allen reported that the transfer of Miocene Canal is likely to be tied up with the transfer of DeSabra. There is no way to legally force PG&E to repair the canal.

- b) **Update – Thad Walker** – Dome Trail – Still in USFS' hands, no updates. Travel Management - 6-county ML road conversion draft is out for review and public meetings are underway. Chris Christofferson, acting Lassen Forest supervisor, has been spearheading ML review to “get the ATVS out of the ditch” and on the existing roads. Jonesville -- Staff continues to look for opportunities to write a grant for Colby Collaborative project(s) (including Jonesville Sno-Park).
- c) **Update – Tim Keesey. Granite Basin** – Tim is almost finished with the Proposed Action, which will need to go out for scoping, which will in turn generate alternatives. The specialists will then analyze the alternatives and write reports. 76% of the budget remains to cover these activities and others, which is an appropriate amount.
- d) **Update – Wolfy Rougle** – Wolfy reported that Randy Murphy, the general director of the Feather River Recreation and Parks District (FRRPD), is interested in signing a Master Services Agreement, much like the one with the City of Chico, so BCRCD can write grants and manage projects for FRRPD. John asked if it wouldn't be better to ask FRRPD to approach the City of Oroville to draft a master service agreement with BCRCD directly. Wolfy agreed to ask Randy about this option.

Wolfy also explained staff's ongoing project to secure SNC funding for climate-smart reforestation pilot project. Staff has scheduled conference call with SNC for the afternoon directly after the board meeting to discuss the desired scope, time frame, and research integration SNC would like to see in a reforestation pilot.

- e) **Funding opportunities – no additional topics discussed**
- f) **Other Projects** – Directors asked about whether BCRCD will be doing any work in Butte Creek Canyon. Staff responded that since State Water Board expressed they're only interested in controlling erosion on roads post-fire, BCRCD has not yet written any erosion control or reforestation grants for the canyon other than erosion control directly on roads. RCD will continue to look for opportunities and noted that, through one particular State Water Board program (NPS/NonPoint Source/Timber Resource Fund) RCD can apply for projects on private roads in the future. Also, several multi-hundred-acre landowners have approached RCD seeking help with forest management plans, oak woodland regeneration, etc.; these projects would be implemented through NRCS. Tim has already been out to visit one 600-acre landowner whose property stretches from Skyway to the creek. Finally, staff explained that if the watershed coordinator grant was successful, BCRCD would have much greater leeway to apply for and implement large-scale revegetation projects in Butte Creek Canyon. (Update: The watershed coordinator grant was successful!)

Allen described some of the broader projects that could be implemented on Butte Creek: The Centerville components incl. the head dam and 8-10 miles of flume are likely to be decommissioned, raising a number of safety and erosion issues that need to be addressed. The dynamic stream channel, heavily dredge-mined in the past, has been bared by the fire so that you can see all the tailings, no longer hidden by vegetation. This is an outstanding opportunity to reshape the creek channel to restore floodplains and normal fluvial processes, reducing hazards

to infrastructure from massive cobble bar movement in the unnaturally constrained channel. First step is to analyze and map river segments where floodplain connectivity can be restored. Allen explained that enhancing Butte Creek's floodplain will enhance groundwater availability throughout the county.

7) **PARTNERS' REPORTS** (5-minute limit per group)

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – see above
- b) Butte County departments -none
- c) Community groups and agencies-none

8) **CLOSED SESSION – Directors only**

- a) Continuing Personnel Discussion
- b) Discussion – Litigation

9) **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS**

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

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: 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.*

- *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.*