



“To protect, enhance, and support Butte County natural resources and agriculture by working with willing partners, landowners, and the community 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 22, 2026

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/89001507097?pwd=tbG1gGb01mqjM1vwmmq8Q7YFhTF9av.1>

Meeting ID: 890 0150 7097

Passcode: 040627

Join via phone +1 408 638 0968

1. CALL TO ORDER – Dave Lee, President

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Chair Dave Lee; Directors Jeff Carter, Allen Hawthorn, and Andy Sohnrey; Treasurer Colleen Hatfield; District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Dallas Koller, Faith Churchill

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)) – None

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 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 Regular Meeting held on 11/17/2025
Colleen moved, Allen seconded to approve the minutes from November; motion passed unanimously
- b) Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 12/18/25
Andy moved, Dave seconded to approve the minutes from December; motion passed unanimously
- c) Brown Act Updates for 2026 -SB 707 (information item)
Andy moved, Dave seconded; motion passed unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Election of Butte County Resource Conservation District Officers for 2026- David Lee
Andy moved to maintain Dave Lee as Chairman of the Board, Colleen Hatfield as Treasurer/Secretary, and Andrew Sohnrey as Vice Chair. Jeff seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Dave noted that this will be his last year. He also stated that the RCD has done some great things, we have a great staff that he is proud of, but it is time to find somebody new.
- b) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield

As discussed at recent meetings, the RCD typically finds itself in a large deficit at the start of the year. This is because as payments go out to contractors the RCD still has invoices outstanding. Colleen indicated that there should be some improvements as the December invoices go out. It is half way through the fiscal year, and the RCD is a little behind what is typically expected, however, Thad pointed out that staff are doing fee for service work that helps the bottom line. Jeff moved, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously. Thad updated the board that the auditors are moving forward with Quick Book access and will return with a plan.

- c) Introduction and presentation by Blue Forest of the Loan and Services Agreement with Upper Butte Creek I Forest Resilience Bond LLC- for financial support of the Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project -Thad Walker (information only)

On Zoom: Blue Forest: Amber Moore, Elizabeth West, Erin Ernst, Andrea Ferri, Kim Quesnel Seipp

Thad provided background on how RCD projects have evolved over the years to focus on landscape level implementation. Landscape projects such as Upper Butte Creek face cash flow issues putting the RCD and its contractors in a bind. The RCD wants to maintain good relationships with contractors by paying them quickly, possibly with the aid of the Forest Resiliency Bond. Utilizing the bond means contractors could be paid within 7 to 10 days. So far Blue Forest has already been working with a number of local implementation partners such as the Butte County Fire Safe Council and the Sierra Institute.

For the Upper Butte Creek Project, the Loan and Services agreement would be signed between the UBC FRB I LLC which is the lender that Blue Forest manages and BCRCDC as the borrower. With this agreement, BCRCDC can borrow money as work is completed, before reimbursements have been received from the grants. The loan would be set at a 0% interest rate with an initial loan size of \$1.25 million. Thad would like to bring this back next month with all of the final edits for a vote. Utilizing the Forest Resiliency Bond (FRB) would be a first for RCDs in the state, a big step for the Butte RCD as Collen noted.

Blue Forest would also bring forward a grant agreement. The Loan and Services Agreement is the mechanism to which Blue Forest can extend a loan to BCRCDC through an LLC. The Implementation Partner Grant Agreement would run parallel to the Loan Agreement and is similar, but is the mechanism by which they provide grant funding that the RCD does not have to repay Blue Forest for. Blue Forest can begin drafting the grant agreement to bring to the RCD.

Blue Forest stated they have a cost share agreement with the Forest Service, some funding from foundations, private funding, and some earned revenue. Andy recalled the mention of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California last year, Amber confirmed that they are a funder for this FRB. The funding from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is specifically coming from their Bay Delta Science Program. They recognize the need to protect headwaters such as Upper Butte Creek to allow for water supply throughout the state. After further concerns regarding the funding source were raised, Dave asked if there are any other sources that could help us get this scale of work completed. Thad responded there could be other options such as advances from the Forest Service, but with some additional challenges. Thad will follow up with Blue Forest to ask if the Metropolitan Water District has funded other projects and specifically if the Butte County Fire Safe Council Blue Forest Project has received funds from them.

The BCRCDC board members will look into the agreement and discuss before next month's board meeting.

- d) California Association of Resource Conservation District, Ballot for Election of Officers for the Board of Directors for the Adoption of Resolutions, and for Approval of the Amended Bylaws -Colleen Hatfield

Colleen has been participating in the CARCD Policy Committee and brought forth the following recommendations.

Election of officers for Board of Directors: President- Rick Gomez, Vice President- Peter Braudrick, Secretary Treasurer- Matt Hurley. Jeff moved, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Proposed Amended Bylaws

Does your RCD approve adoption of the Proposed Amended Bylaws transmitted on October 28, 2025? Yes

Resolution #1: Moving Regions (Antelope Valley RCD)- Approve

Resolution #2: Sustainable Funding for RCDs- Approve

Resolution #3 Reaffirm Duty to Comply with Bylaws- Do not approve

Resolution #4 Transparency and Minimum Standards for Conducting CARCD Business- Do not approve

Resolution #5.1 Reconvene Policy Committee- Do not approve

Resolution #5.2 Establish and Convene a Standing Finance Committee- Do not approve

Resolution #6 Reconsider Board Action on Dues Structure for FY 25-26- Do not approve

Resolution #7 Establish New Election Procedures- Do not Approve

Resolution #8 Adopt IRS-Recommended Policies for Charitable Organizations 2025- Approve

Resolution #9 Ensure Diverse Representation on Committees- Do not Approve

Colleen moved, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously. Andy suggested resolution #9 is updated next year to include language on two (or more) members from an RCD joining a committee being allowable only if there are no other RCD representatives volunteering. Colleen affirms that the resolutions can be changed.

- e) Review of purchase for Network Attached Storage (NAS) unit from Computers Plus for hard drive backup and GIS file storage of BCRCDD data -Faith Churchill

The RCD has been discussing how to enhance data sharing and data protection. Currently, staff members store their data locally on their hard drive (especially GIS files) or on Google Drive. With

a NAS the data can be stored locally on the server and would integrate with our existing Google Drive Cloud storage for a secondary back up. There are no subscription fees, just a start up fee of \$1,780 to buy the NAS and technical support from Computers Plus. Colleen moved, Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- f) Agreement with Iron Ridge Enterprises for Bureau of Land Management, Upper Ridge Nature Preserve Hazard Fuels Reduction Project -Dallas Koller

This is the agreement from the last meeting but with a different contractor as it was discovered the previously selected contractor did not attend the bid walk. Dallas suggested the award goes to the local contractor Iron Ridge Enterprises. The RCD has worked with them in the past and had good experiences. The overall bid cost would increase by \$4,000. Jeff moved, Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- g) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates

Thad reported a busy winter season with good burn windows, noting that David and Dallas have been able to work effectively with Air Quality despite ongoing challenges. BCRCD staff recently transplanted McNab cypress alongside Plumas National Forest staff and are coordinating with the Forest Service to fence the trees to prevent off-road vehicle impacts. The Wilder Property is kicking off CEQA, a resource management plan, and planning for resource surveys. Grant closeouts have been a major focus, with Wolfy and Julia currently in the field with Sierra Nevada Conservancy closing out Grant 1312, work underway to close out the Centerville Road project with some adaptive management actions, and Faith closing out the Crane Valley, Butte Creek House Meadow, and Thad on a Colby Mountain grant. Forestry work in Concow is ongoing, Dallas is advancing the Forks of Butte NEPA process, and planning is underway with NFWF funding for the Humbug Road Realignment and Willow Creek Meadow Restoration, which will require construction to begin this summer to meet the two-year timeline. Additional efforts include an upcoming CalRecycle cleanup bid, hiring one or possibly two seasonal Forestry Technicians, and preparations for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Board meeting in Butte County in March, where BCRCD will present during the field tour. The SNC public board meeting on March 5 is open to the public and a BCRCD proposal for Colby Mountain funding through Proposition 68 will go before their Board. Dave suggested potential meadow restoration funding opportunities through the Elk Foundation.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- b) Butte County departments
- c) Community groups

Friends of Butte Creek- Allen said that on the CDFW Butte Creek Ecological Reserve they are installing piezometers and will bring in the CCCs to conduct invasive species removal. They have also been given tentative approval to fill in the mines with all required engineering documents.

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

10. CLOSED SESSION

Thad updated the board on staff reviews. BOD completed the annual review of the District Manager

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. 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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