



*"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 \* bcrcd@carcd.org

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Minutes**

**Date: Thursday, August 17th, 2023**

**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

**2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**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 BOD meeting held on 7/20/2023  
John moved, Andrew seconded, motion passed unanimously.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) **Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable-** Thad Walker – Board received financial statements and balance sheets, as well as the interim board report for August to date. DM asked if BOD had any questions. Red Mountain Resources has completed their work and we're just waiting on reimbursements from a couple funding sources before we pay their final invoices. John moved, Andrew seconded to approve the financials; motion passed unanimously.
- b) **Presentation by Konkow Valley Band of Maidu on Tribal Monitoring for Projects and Tribal Partnerships, Matthew S. Williford Sr., Acting Tribal Chair. (information only)** – Tribe chose to postpone until September
- c) **Consideration of financial support for Butte County Speak Off Contest** -Samantha Lewis /Thad Walker: It will be exciting to sponsor a high school student to represent Butte County this year. We're modeling our support of the speak-off after what Glenn County does. Event will be hosted Tues, Sept. 19 at Chico High School, organized by Chico Ecology Club (who will provide snacks!) with FFA and 4H participation. John moved to support the competition at \$200 for first place, \$150 for second, \$100 for third, Samantha seconded, motion passed unanimously. Judge panel: Dave Lee plus 2 experts in the topic. This year's topic is "*California's climate is changing, and groundwater recharge will be important to ensure water for future generations. Are there other natural resource benefits to groundwater recharge projects and how can RCDs help? What local or regional examples can you point to, and how have these examples helped your community?*"
- d) **Cottonwood Endowment Update and request for outreach to County Council for legal guidance** – Thad Walker/ Wolfy Rouble – Tabled for now until Colleen gets back and has had a chance to talk with auditors etc. Dave would like to hear if there are additional projects we can do out at Cottonwood to improve the property. Yes, there are, for example a new well, more cross-fencing to improve grazing management opportunities, but it's unclear if CalTrans would pay for them, since our agreement with them only states we'll maintain *certain* conservation values (not even all of them) at 2008 levels, which is a low bar.
- e) **Agreement with Lassen National Forest for 23-SA-11050600-012 BCRC D Dixie High Lakes Trails Restoration** -Thad Walker – NEPA is already complete and LNF would like our help improving and delineating the parking lot, abating unauthorized trails, improving water quality etc. Good opportunity to work on the motorized side of recreation while we also pursue developing non-motorized recreation opportunities in Colby area. Samantha moved, John seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- f) **Agreement Amendment with Butte County for X24722 Colby Mountain Project/ Connected Communities Trail Construction** -Thad Walker – This extends the timeline for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding through 2026. Due to FS delays to date, County agrees about the benefits of allowing more time for the 20 miles of trail construction. Dollar amount of agreement cannot be increased, but we don't anticipate it will be insufficient. John moved to extend the agreement timeline through 2026; Samantha seconded; motion carried unanimously.
- g) **Agreement with Point Blue Conservation Science for CEQA services for Clear Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project Phase 2** -Faith Churchill – Project builds on the existing project we developed an NOE for to the south several months ago and includes vegetation enhancement, native plantings etc., rainwater catchment for livestock (guzzler), fencing improvements. Samantha moved to approve, John seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- h) **Hazard Tree Felling SFLAP Contract- Cameron Musser** – Pulled from agenda; 3 bids are in and

contract amount is small enough that it can be signed by DM between Board meetings.

- i) **Agreement with Red Mountain Resources LLC (LTO# A011937) for Swedes Flat Fire Hazard Tree and Fuels Reduction Project-** Dallas Koller – 80 ac hazard fuel reduction, all hand cut and pile; CAL FIRE is leaving BCRCD a lot of flexibility to design the prescription, within the VMP CEQA document. Rather than marking individual trees, the project area will be cut back to a minimum 60% canopy cover and will need to resemble the “desired conditions” area. Brush removal and dead tree removal, with the blue oaks prioritized for retention. Contractor will be paid by the acre (with final approval coming from BCRCD and CAL FIRE), not by the tree. This would be our first implementation project with CAL FIRE after doing so many planning projects for them. RMR is the lowest bid by about \$17,000 and we’ve worked with them in the past. Note that (1) in item 4, the numbers are correct but the amounts written out in words are incorrect and (2) Contractor name also needs to be updated in one spot. John moved to approve the agreement with the 2 changes made; Andrew seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- j) **Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, Sept 21, 2023**, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

## **7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS**

- a) Project Updates – Several great applications have been received for PBA Coordinator job; we will interview them in the next cycle and provide a recommendation for hire to the Board at the September meeting.
- b) Staffing Analysis Findings- Solid Ground Consulting – Solid Ground helped us look at where our staffing gaps might be (relative to where we want to grow) and what areas we could fill to allow us to grow. For example, drilling down on the specifics of exactly what individual we’re looking for in a permanent District Manager; clarifying the roles of our different folks who work in forestry; and how we can grow back into other areas of conservation where we don’t currently have strengths (e.g. ag ) and we don’t currently have funding to develop those strengths. In terms of ag, the main waves of funding that’s coming are for (1) healthy soils and (2) purpose-specific RCPP, e.g. an almond-specific RCPP we’ve applied for under the CARCD umbrella, which (if awarded) would supply ¾ of a job position at RCD. John remarked that water efficiency enhancement grants would be much improved if they didn’t require a civil engineer, as that level of expertise is unnecessary for most of the projects. This has been a recurring problem with NRCS funding. Dave noted if we’re going to work with NRCS again, we also have to be sure NRCS will provide enough work (fund enough projects) to keep an RCD staff member busy. Samantha requested BCRCD list Farm Bureau as a partner on our website and noted FB has been able to apply for some grants that BCRCD hasn’t pursued, even though FB doesn’t have the related technical expertise on staff either. Samantha questioned why DM position hasn’t been filled yet. That open position is still advertised on our website – we are still accepting applications -- but it’s true BCRCD allowed the job advertisements that cost us money to lapse. Now that we have the Solid Ground findings, they will allow us to restructure the DM position description and promote it more actively in the future. Andrew stated that he knows diversifying back into having an ag program is not going to happen overnight, but is a strategic necessity because at some point, the current situation (where all the money is in forestry) won’t hold anymore. Others stated agreement.

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

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

## 9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Director are welcome to report – Andrew stated he’d spoken with Morrissons up in Chico about helping to find a DM – they write grants and head-hunt. Toni at that firm told Andrew that finding a DM is totally in their wheelhouse, but it is more expensive than Andrew thought it would be: it’s closer to \$25,000 and he’s not sure if that sum is due whether we hire a person or not! (But he will follow up and clarify) However, Toni can come and give a presentation for free at our next BOD meeting.

John stated he’d like to hear a presentation from Kelly Peterson (he may have missed the last meeting where she was here, a few months ago). Interested to hear about recharge and an update after this wet winter and summer to date.

## 10. CLOSED SESSION – No closed session.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT – 10:01 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: [bcrd@carcd.org](mailto: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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