



"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, December 19, 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, 9:02 am

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - Dave Lee, President; Colleen Hatfield, Treasurer; Directors Andy Sohnrey (in person) and Allen Harthorn (remote); District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Wolfy Rougle (remote), staff David Mitchell, Cait Bell, Dallas Koller, & Faith Churchill; Konkow Valley Band of Maidu representative Wayne Nine

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 11/21/2024 – Moved to next month due to not having a quorum of members present who were also present last month.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

Dave stated the BOD should usually vote on Board positions in December and apologized for not having this item on the agenda this month. Other Directors remembered January as the usual month for this vote, however. The vote will occur in January 2025.

- a) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield – Colleen went over the new, streamlined reports Cheryl the bookkeeper is offering us: a report for past due accounts payable (Vendor Balance Detail) and one for accounts receivable (Aging Report) as well. Board also has access to each month's detailed transactions, credit card statements, and payroll detail, if they want it. The most important thing to take in at a quick glimpse is to compare accounts receivable to accounts payable (AR should always be higher, and if it is not, there should be a cogent reason). "Net operating income" can easily appear negative at the end of a quarter, but will rebound the following month when a wave of payments from funders are received all at once. Colleen and Cheryl would like feedback on whether the redesigned reports are helpful.

Andy moved, Colleen seconded to accept the December financials; motion passed unanimously.

Board members discussed the numerous outstanding balances that result from rounding errors, mostly \$0.01 or \$0.02. Andy moved, Colleen seconded to write off all balances under \$5.00; motion passed unanimously.

- b) Review of moving banking services from Mechanics to Golden Valley -Colleen Hatfield – Golden Valley is familiar with working with special districts (e.g. water districts) and may offer more robust staffing/responsiveness than Mechanics, which is currently our only bank. Colleen moved BCRCDC move all our accounts (except for Reserves which will be moved to CalClass) to Golden Valley. Andy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- c) Review of Allevery Employee Handbook and recommendations -Thad Walker – Thad reviewed the full handbook and said nothing stood out to him to improve upon. Dave stated the same. No action needed.
- d) Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Konkau Association Corporation for Cultural Resources Monitoring in support of PNF Concow SPA -Wolfy Rougle – This agreement sets the framework for disbursing the \$2.3 million allocated to this non-Federally recognized Tribe through the Camp Fire Settlement Funds SPA between BCRCDC and PNF. Colleen moved to approve the agreement, Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- e) Request to Partially Waive 10% Withholding on SNC-1312 - Wolfy Rougle – A formal request that would reduce withholding on this grant from \$210,000 down to a more manageable \$50,000. Andy moved to sign the request; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- f) Contract Agreement with Hybrid Incident Support LLC DBA Hybrid Indigenous Stewardship for Rx Support for Plumas National Forest -Dallas Koller – HIS offers a small and nimble Rx fire crew that would be willing to work on smaller burns (e.g., the one-day burns that Firestorm is not willing to organize a crew for). Andy moved to approve the agreement; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- g) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates – EFRP has been authorized for Park Fire-affected properties in Butte County. While a challenging funding source to utilize, after the Camp Fire it did treat more acres than just about any other source. Also, with Prop 4 being approved, WCB's Oak Woodlands funding source would likely be re-approved, and we have a strong potential to be approved for a smaller (20-30 ac) project. It's likely additional opportunities will also come out of Prop 4; it's just too soon to tell. Dave asked about non-forestry projects to diversify what BCRCD's been doing lately. BCRCD has been actively tracking SGMA projects (irrigation and recharge improvements) but none have been available this part month. However, BCRCD will be expanding into Valley-floor riparian restoration with the BCPW agreement the Board will see next month.

David: This year PBA has conducted 32 work days, using over 2000 volunteer hours, ranging from a 120+ acre burn with the Mechoopda Tribe, down to burns of just a handful of acres assisting private landowners with home resiliency. We have our own mini-engine and water buffalo too. Just last week we burned for the first time on the Ridge (Magalia). We also just completed a very successful pile burn in middle Bidwell Park which will lead to increased opportunities and responsibilities for BCRCD to assist with underburning in the Park.

Dave asked: Are we looking at doing more work in the southern end of the County (i.e. the only part of the County that hasn't burned yet besides Upper Butte)? David and Dallas responded that PBA has 3 landowners in Clipper Mills who have already signed agreements, and Thad added that an oak woodlands resilience project is about to come online east of Bangor. PBA has done small landowner burns/work days in Forbestown before. Allen added he'd like to develop a plan with SPI to treat more acres in the Upper Butte Creek watershed on non-Federal lands. (BCRCD is already responsible for completing NEPA on almost all the Federal land – USFS as well as BLM-- in that watershed!)

Cait: She has spent this year working primarily on post-fire projects through both SFLAP (cost-free assistance to about 40 underserved landowners in Berry Creek and Feather Falls) and also through Concow Resilience on Plumas NF lands (this year, working with the Konkow Tribe on monitoring and replanting, with more to come). Also, she's helped out with Rx support during this past fall, helping to make a success our first season using Camp Fire Settlement Funds to help PNF return beneficial fire to its lands.

Wolfy: The big 2024 accomplishments included negotiating the 2 Plumas NF Camp Fire Settlement Funds agreements totaling \$29.5 million and getting the Upper Butte Creek Forest Health EA back on some kind of track after a 6-month (statewide) delay over California Spotted Owl and then a 3-month delay over the Park Fire. The latter pause gave her time to help develop permitting for the Park Fire watershed restoration activities in Butte County on behalf of BCCER, the City of Chico, Mechoopda Tribe, and Higgins Ridge LLC. Although our projects with Lassen NF seem to us to be moving very slowly, apparently they seem to LNF to be going well because they have asked BCRCD if we'd be willing to assist on another, even larger, NEPA project in 2026 they call "Table Mountain" which would cover most of the High Lakes and areas around Inskip, Stirling City etc.

Dallas: In calendar year 2024, we broadcast-burned 198.5 acres through the PBA. For 2025, he is looking forward to rolling into the Forks of Butte NEPA, continuing to help Plumas NF with Rx support, and using CAL FIRE funds to replace essential water lines that burned in 2025 in Maple Creek Ranch. Dallas has also been asked by Fall River RCD to develop a number of burn plans and we can expect his skills and service to be more and more in demand by other RCDs in the coming year. Fortunately, Dallas just received his Single Resource qualification which dramatically increases the RCD's ability to provide career advancement/certifications to Butte County students of fire. This means he can play a crucial role helping to increase the number of

California-certified burn bosses who can write such plans. There is a lot of work to go around!

Faith: 2024 brought the first round of implementation for Butte Creek House, discussions of beaver reintroduction there, and a lot of planning to restore Crane Valley. With the Park Fire, BCRCDD was also called on to perform as permitting lead and cross-boundary facilitator for what would become the Process-Based Restoration in the Park Fire project, resulting in over 1200 structures built in just 2 months. Faith presented on BCRCDD's work at the Butte County Wildfire Summit in December and it was well received by all who attended.

8. PARTNERS' REPORTS (5-minute limit per group) - none

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

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

- a) Butte County RCD Directors and Associate Directors are welcome to report - none

10. CLOSED SESSION – Board completed District Manager performance review.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 10:50 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: bcrdd@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 BCRCDD 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.