RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BUTTE COUNTY

"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."

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Date: Thursday, June 18, 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/88974119154?pwd=V01CaUpYVEw3VFpNQS84YkFSSmJkQT09

Meeting ID: 889 7411 9154

Passcode: 575904

Join via phone +1 408 638 0968

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Dave Lee, President: 9:04am

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS –** Dave Lee, Chair; Andrew Sohnrey, Vice Chair; Directors Jeff Carter and Allen Harthorn; Treasurer Colleen Haitfield; District Manager Thad Walker; Staff Wolfy Rougle; Guests on Zoom Michael Miller and Geoff Mullenix (Melton Design Group, working w Mooretown Rancheria on Feather Falls CG reconstruction).

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 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 BCRCD 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 5/21/26 – Andrew moved, Jeff 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 – With us being close to end of a quarter and indeed a whole fiscal year, any snapshot of the financials is necessarily incomplete. Last few months have shown a net negative so we need to wait for the end of July to see how much of the expenses will are reimbursable by invoicing to funders. May was a busy month with almost $300,000 coming in (much of it from invoices submitted months ago), $170,000 in expenses for that month. Andrew asked about the "interest earned" line: where's that coming from? – Primarily from the Cottonwood endowment. Board asked if RCD is actually doing anything out at the Cottonwood easement. Wolfy explained the reservoir would really benefit form repairs and this would be a win-win for the farm families and the vernal pool shrimp, but so far she has not persuaded CalTrans to give the green light to funding this. She will keep working on it and Colleen asked to be kept in the loop. Colleen seeks a motion to write off $1.23 remaining on the RFFCP-962 balance. Jeff moved, Allen seconded to accept the financials and write off the $1.23; motion passed unanimously. Consideration of BCRCD AI Notetaker Policy, with input from Allevity Employer Solutions -Wolfy Rougle /Thad Walker – Allevity was unable to join due to illness, but the Board considered a draft policy that would prohibit BCRCD staff from using or allowing AI notetaker bots in
non-public meetings unless the Board specifically authorizes an app (that doesn't present the same confidentiality/accuracy/legal concerns as others) at some future time. Dave and Jeff shared that they have experienced problems with AI notetaking in other organizations they participate in (either problems of accuracy, legal issues, or both. Andrew noted that the time will come when BCRCD will have to embrace AI to stay relevant and competitive. However, he stated the technology is not yet there. Allen moved, Andrew seconded to approve the AI notetaker policy; motion passed unanimously.

b) Review of 2024/ 2025 Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report, For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025, Nigro & Nigro PC -Thad Walker – Our first "single audit"! It was very thorough, examining all our federal agreements and comprehensively "testing" our records-keeping system with random requests. The audit came back with **no findings**, which is the ideal result and shows RCD's processes are sound. Thad highlighted a few typos (like where "South Lake Butte County" is written on pp 40,44) and on p 18-19 there's a reference to RCD receiving property taxes, which we don't, so that needs to be removed before final acceptance. Jeff moved to approve the audit with those changes, but not to share the audit with any partners until the typos are fixed; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

c) Review of Final 2026/ 2027 Operational Budget -Colleen Hatfield/ Thad Walker – Compared to the draft budget the Board saw last month, this one reflects a higher rent, but also some higher project income, so the expected net for next FY is $27K instead of $7K. Our indirect has gone up dramatically over the last 2 years so Thad made the point it may be time to look into a federally negotiated NICRA. To do so, there would be some upfront costs for a consultant etc., but over the long-term it would lead to a more sustainable balance of expenses and income. No new major vehicle or equipment acquisitions are expected for this FY (Having the new F250 has been amazing for Rx fire operations this spring though; we are really grateful to have it!!) – Colleen moved, Andy seconded, to approve the FY 26-27 budget; motion passed unanimously.

e) Updated Business Banking Online Services Agreement with Golden Valley Bank to add Automated Clearing House (ACH) transfers to BCRCD account -Colleen Hatfield – This is to enable us to send ACH repayments to Blue Forest now that our Forest Resiliency Bond is active. For right now, we just want to set it up for the account we currently use for the Blue Forest grant money. First 90 days will be free from bank fees, after that $25/month with a $5 per transaction fee. Currently monthly limit is $250K but we can adjust this upward as we move toward construction. ACH transactions would be initiated by Colleen, Cheryl, Thad or Wolfy and approved by Dave, Andrew or Colleen. Allen moved, Andy seconded, to approve ACH agreement; motion passed unanimously.

f) Renewal of Lease Agreement with Rick and Sandy Gould for 641 Entler Ave Office -Thad Walker – We have been paying $1790/month, and now we have 2 options: renew at $1975/month for another 36-month term, or $2140 to be month-to-month. The space has been pretty ideal as office space goes; there's even on-site 24-7 maintenance and cameras. In 3 years, we've only experienced 1 minor vandalism issue (gas siphoned from the pump on the water buffalo that has to sit outside). Andrew recommended we hide AirTags on equipment to help with traceability; they are $100 each and only need to be charged once a year. Staff feels the space will continue to be adequate for the next 3 years. Andrew moved to go with option 1 (3-year lease), Jeff seconded; motion passed unanimously.

g) Cell Phone plan consideration for BCRCD staff, Verizon Wireless - Thad Walker – Several staff would prefer a District-sponsored phone and plan in lieu of the $600/year tech stipend. Staff who don't opt for a District phone would keep receiving the stipend. Thad proposed purchasing a phone and plan for each staff member who wants one, plus a new RCD office line (which would replace the current (530) 693-3173 which is not functioning very well lately, esp. in terms of the voicemail). This would allow us to have someone regularly answer the RCD phone! We compared plans and found Verizon seemed to have superior business customer service. Allen moved to approve the deal w Verizon, Jeff seconded, motion passed unanimously.

h) Stewardship Agreement with USDA Forest Service 26-SA-11050600-013, Lassen National Forest, Upper Butte Creek Forest Health Project -Wolfy Rougle – Thad noted that on the FS Cash to Cooperator page, there's a typo where costs are incorrectly listed by the day instead of by the hour. Jeff moved to sign the agreement with that change; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

i) Cohasset Reforestation and Oak Restoration Program CEQA ND - Wolfy Rougle – This is an FSC project but once CEQA is final, any organization could utilize it as long as they are doing the same type of work authorized, in the same area and with the same integrated resource protection features. It authorizes oak release/leader training and conifer replanting within the Park Fire footprint. Jeff moved to have Dave sign the completed CEQA document; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Allen noted the CEQA ND still has the Oroville office address, so we briefly discussed whether we still have 2 offices. We do; we have an agreement with NRCS that states they will provide us office space; and we pick up the mail at Oroville 2x a week; but the office we used to utilize there is now occupied by a DC-assigned NCRS staffer, we no longer have internet there, and with the new phone line we will no longer need the phone line there either. Once the SAM agreement renews, we have the option to formally change the address. Thad will reach out to LAFCO in the meantime to see what steps we would need to complete to formally change the District address.

j) Feather Falls Campground Construction of Replacement Facilities After North Complex Fire, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California, CEQA NOE --Wolfy Rougle – BCRCD did already develop a CEQA NOE for this same project a year ago, but since then, Mooretown and FS have identified a slightly different and larger footprint that's preferable for this campground. Having verified that resource surveys are complete for the newer location, BCRCD staff completed the new NOE. Jeff moved, Allen seconded to approve the NOE; motion passed unanimously.

k) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA – Board felt it is important to keep the 3rd Thursday meeting rhythm intact, but we did discuss the potential to add a special meeting around July 23rd (potentially in Chico). This will likely be needed to award multiple bids in a timely manner.

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

a) Project Updates – BCRCD will soon start work on the **Coutelenc MacNab** fencing and educational trail development project in partnership with Plumas NF and California Native Plant Society. **Center for Regenerative Ag** at CSU Chico is having an educational day Wed July 1, 8-5 pm, including remarks by Wade Crofoot. SNC $500K grant for more **Colby Trails** was approved; Thad thanked Colleen for attending the SNC Board meeting with him. Dave asked what we are doing in the **High Lakes:** Thad responded we have submitted a $600,000 OHMVR grant to supplement existing High Lakes funding and allow us to fulfill the FS scope of work. The grant will be competitive and prioritizes areas with active monitoring plans (which LNF does not have) so we'll see. Wolfy summarized **Humbug Rd realignment** updates from RCD's recent meeting with new BCPW director, Colt Eselwein. Meeting was productive and BCPW now prefers the new alignment to be built to an FS unsealed road standard, with access and responsibilities delineated under a supplemental agreement under the existing 1973 FS-Butte County Cooperative Road Maintenance Agreement. That supplemental agreement would go before the BOS at some future (fall?) meeting. This also means BCPW no longer sees the same need for an MOU with BCRCD (which the BCRCD board signed back in April). To sum up, this approach will be simpler for BCRCD in some ways, but at the same time we saw/see a lot of advantages with that MOU because 1) it provided a lot of clarity about roles and responsibilities, 2) it provided a way for BCRCD to know BCPW would be comfortable with all the elements of construction, materials testing and oversight, and 3) it provided a clear path for the County to recoup staff costs from the grant funding. We don't want the County to have to bear unreimbursed staff costs for the project, so maybe we need to apply for an encroachment permit or something to re-create that path.

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

a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) - none

b) Butte County departments - none

c) Community groups – Friends of Butte Creek reported on a recent meeting with the engineer and is optimistic they can arrive at a plan for how to reshape the existing habitat to be more functional habitat.

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: bcrcd@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