



"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."

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Minutes

Date: Thursday, August 15, 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 – 9:00 am

- 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – Chair Dave Lee, Treasurer Colleen Hatfield, Directors Andrew Sohnrey and Allen Harthorn, District Manager Thad Walker, Staff Wolfy Rougle, Dallas Koller, and Cait Bell. Jim Houtman of Fire Safe Council was an online guest.

- 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 7/18/2024
- b) Review and approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 5/16/2024

Due to the resignation of Director Lewis, no quorum will be available to approve the minutes of 5/16/2024. Colleen, however, moved to accept them on behalf of the 2 directors present in May and present today, i.e., herself and Dave. Dave concurred. Allen moved to approve the minutes from July; Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

6. ACTION ITEMS – Dave Lee, President

- a) Director Samantha Lewis, Letter of Resignation (Information Only) -Thad Walker – Directors encouraged each other to look around for someone who would make a good fifth board member and advocate for that person’s appointment by Supervisor Kimmelshue. The BCRCDC is grateful for Director Lewis’ service and wishes her all the best in her new symphony adventure.
- b) Review and approval of Financials/ Accounts Payable- Colleen Hatfield – 2 bank accounts have been closed (because of successful project close-out). The Cottonwood easement investment account is doing extremely well this month. Accounts receivable continue to exceed accts payable when you look beyond the one-month horizon.

Colleen noted most accounts have a very small accounting discrepancy (the biggest is for \$50 from way back in 2020, most others are for \$0.01 or \$0.02 rounding errors). Colleen requested Board’s approval to write these discrepancies off.

Colleen moved, Allen seconded to approve the financials; motion passed unanimously. Next, Andy moved to clean up and write off all the discrepancies; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously. Third, Colleen asked if BCRCDC would like to increase its contribution to NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts), which advocates for RCDs on a national level, from our current \$100 to \$250. (Many RCDs contribute \$1000 annually). Allen moved to increase the donation to \$250, but since this wasn’t on the agenda the Board decided to table it. It will be an agenda item for next month.

- c) 2022/ 2023 Audit Review -Colleen Hatfield – Cheryl the bookkeeper is very happy with the audit. No issues or recommendations this year – great job team. The auditor knows our systems very well from having audited us the past 4 years now, and we expect future years to go equally smoothly. Andy moved to approve the 22-23 audit review, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- d) 2023/ 2024 Audit Engagement Letter, PBJ- Colleen Hatfield – With this audit, we will be current on our annual audits – a huge accomplishment. Colleen and Cheryl would like to re-enlist the auditor who now has 5 years of auditing us under their belt. Colleen moved, Andy seconded, to accept the PBJ engagement letter. Motion passed unanimously.
- e) ~~Reynolds~~ Shoffner Settlement, options for allocation of funds -Colleen Hatfield – The \$30,000+ settlement has been paid to BCRCDC. Where to apply it? Colleen stated that for the past 7 years, our financials have shown about a \$12,000 balance on a USBank credit card. This balance is related to the settlement. However, it looks like USBank wrote this off long ago. After expending considerable due diligence trying to pay USBank this amount and being rebuffed, Colleen recommends BCRCDC write off this USBank balance on our side and place the entire settlement into our cash reserves account. Accordingly, Andy moved to write off the USBank card balance and place the settlement funds into the reserve account. Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- f) Opening a California Liquid Assets Securities System (CLASS) account for cash reserves -Colleen Hatfield – This is a joint powers authority investment plan, a way to invest public money

at 5.4% interest and still have immediate access to the funds. Board reviewed the terms and conditions. These are securities, not a savings account and not FDIC insured. Credit cards are also available. Board agreed to place it on next month's agenda to hear a presentation and Q&A session from the representative.

- g) Opening of new bank account for Sierra Nevada Conservancy advance funds for RFFCP-1710 funds - Wolfy Rougle – Another new grant, another requirement to open a separate interest-bearing account to receive the funds. Colleen moved to open an interest-bearing account for this advance with David Lee and Colleen Hatfield as the signers, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- h) Review of Changes to BCRC D Policies and Procedures Section II updates -David Lee – Tabled until next month, but Dave asked board members and Thad to review this chapter in the next couple weeks, paying special attention to the question marks Dave inserted in the document (these are to ask whether the clauses are still relevant to how BCRC D does business or not, esp in light of our HR relationship with Allevity). We will re-address this final chapter of the P&Ps at September's meeting. At that time, we will also establish a schedule for how we will continue to cyclically review and revise the P&Ps going forward after that.
- i) Stewardship Agreement Supplemental Project Agreement 24-SA-11051100-007, Prescribed Fire Resources Ordering, USDA, Forest Service, Plumas National Forest -Wolfy Rougle – Provides \$17.5 million of Camp Fire Settlement Funds to contract for Type 2 IA crews and other needed resources to support Rx fire on *all* Camp Fire-affected lands in Plumas National Forest. BCRC D's role would be in contract administration and (if requested by FS) possibly some limited contract oversight. In general, contractors would be answering to the USFS burn boss, paid by BCRC D. Builds upon a successful arrangement between PNF and FRRCD, with modifications suggested by both parties. Colleen moved, Allen seconded, to have BCRC D sign the SPA; motion passed unanimously.
- j) Stewardship Agreement Supplemental Project Agreement 24-SA-11051100-018, Concow/ Flea Valley Post Fire Restoration, USDA, Forest Service, Plumas National Forest -Wolfy Rougle – Provides \$12 million of Camp Fire Settlement Funds to allow BCRC D to, among other things, continue the successful Concow Resilience Project another 10 years and expand it to more lands within a 9,611-acre footprint of Camp Fire-affected lands in Plumas National Forest. Would also fund hazard tree removal, road improvements, GIS updates, wildlife surveys, and a cultural resources monitoring program run by Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians. Colleen moved, Allen seconded, to have BCRC D sign the SPA; motion passed unanimously
- k) Agreement with California Association of Resource Conservation Districts for NRCS EQIP Technical Assistance -Thad Walker – Similar to our last agreement to provide TA to NRCS, this would let BCRC D provide as-needed assistance to NRCS, covering our own staff time, indirect and travel. This time around, the agreement also supports CARCD staff time to administer the agreement. BCRC D can use a contract RPF to fulfill this agreement during those times we don't have one on staff. Colleen noticed that the "Exhibit B" budget on an internal page was incomplete and did not match the budget on the first page. Thad stated the budget on the first page was the correct one and should have simply been copied and pasted to Exhibit B. With that change, Allen moved to accept the agreement, Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- l) Agreement with NRCS for Irrigation Engineering technical assistance NR249104XXXXC025 - Thad Walker – We've talked about this one for a while! The reason for this agreement is that NRCS staff who can do irrigation engineering are very limited. This would allow BCRC D to hire (or, more likely, contract with) an engineer who has the required level of experience and can fill the gap on NRCS projects. Allen moved to accept the agreement, Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- m) Agreement with MTN for China Creek Stream Crossing analysis, High Lakes OHV Project, Lassen National Forest -Dallas Koller – China Creek is one of the more remote, hard to access, and also one of the more degraded crossings in the High Lakes. Hydrologist Noah Abramson

would assess the crossing, design a plan and alternative, and assist with the WaterBoards and USACE permits. Colleen moved to accept the agreement, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- n) Agreement and Change Order #001 with Rock Solid Trail Contracting DBA Rock Solid Trails CA#1123384 for trail construction for the Colby Mountain Recreation Project Phase 1 -Thad Walker – Under a \$1,000,000 contract with the County under the Rescue Plan Act, we put the Colby Trails project out to bid nationally. Rock Solid was the most qualified contractor with the lowest bid, but was still substantially more than the money we have. They understand this and will reduce the bid to fit the budget (from 20 miles of trail to between 12-14 miles). County is fine with these changes. Now that Rock Solid have obtained a CA contractor’s license, we must accept their original bid (under CA contracting language) and then we can immediately issue a change order for the lower dollar amount. Implementation could begin this fall and run through 2026, Forest Service allowing. Park Fire did not impact the area. Andy moved to accept the agreement, Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- o) Review of bid for Butte Creek Camp Fire Post-Fire Recovery Project, Hat Creek Construction and Material Inc. -Thad Walker – Also known as the Centerville Road project! In this case, the qualified bid we have received (from Hat Creek) is about 4x the available funding from the WaterBoards. Multiple factors went into this, but the bottom line is that we don’t have the funding to accept this bid. Thad recommended the Board reject the bid and direct staff to work with the County to rebid the project. We may or may not get a workable bid on the second try (in the past, sometimes we have and sometimes we haven’t). Colleen moved to reject Hat Creek’s proposal and go back out to bid, Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.
The WaterBoard gave us a 1 year extension so we have until end of 2025 to finish the project. Staff will meet with the County on Friday to try and determine what we can do to rework the project to reduce costs, and then we’ll re-bid the project.
- p) Agreement Amendment with Mooretown Rancheria for cultural monitoring on the Small Forest Landowners Assistance Program (SFLAP) project - Wolfy Rougle – No need to augment budget at this time; however, scope of work does need to be expanded to include immediate pre-implementation work (e.g., flagging) and implementation work (e.g., monitoring while contractors are in the area). Colleen caught a needed change: add language: “The time to complete work is extended to 12/1/2024” on the Amendment #1 cover page. With that change, Allen moved, Andy seconded. To accept the agreement amendment; motion passed unanimously.
- q) Agreement with Sierra Cascade Land Stewards for Registered Professional Forester Services to assist with Post-Park Fire forestry needs -Thad Walker – Applies only to City of Chico and would let us apply our fee-for-service rate for an RPF to our contract forester Evan from SCLS. **Did not catch who moved and who seconded;** motion passed unanimously.
- r) Agreement with Chico State Enterprises, Geographic Information Center for GIS Support to Tribes (RFFCP-1710) - Wolfy Rougle – Would use \$141,000 of our RFFCP-1710 grant to fund CSE to provide as-needed GIS technical assistance to each of the 6 Tribes that have ancestral territory in Butte County. Andy moved to accept the agreement, Colleen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- s) Small Forest Landowner Assistance Program (SFLAP) Phase 2: Feather Falls, CEQA Notice of Exemption - Wolfy Rougle- Similar to how we surveyed resources and analyzed effects last year for phase 1 (Berry Creek), this document analyzes effects of SFLAP on the 20 properties of Phase 2, noting site-specific project design features that make the project categorically exempt from a full CEQA review. Colleen moved that BCRCD sign and file the NOE; Allen seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- t) Process-Based Restoration in the Park Fire, CEQA Notice of Exemption (Emergency Statutory Exemption) - Wolfy Rougle – After the Park Fire, much of Big Chico Creek is severely burned and at risk of losing a lot of soil into the creek, which would be bad for both uplands and fish. We (and 18+ other partners!) want to get out into the canyon

tributaries ASAP and install PBRs (process-based restoration structures) to slow and spread the runoff. This preliminary CEQA document is not the final permitting document for that, but will allow partners who already hold grants in the canyon to take this NOE to their grantors and negotiate a scope change so the PBRs work can get some initial funding. Colleen moved that BCRCDD sign and file the NOE; Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.

- u) Countywide Burn Plan CEQA Notice of Exemption 2024 - Dallas Koller – Filing a CEQA document on these burn plans is what allows BCRCDD to be able to provide Dallas Koller as a California burn boss for these burns, which, in turn, provides local landowners (who still hold the burn liability) access to the California State Prescribed Fire Claims Fund. A great bonus is this also allows BCCER crews to assist on burns as needed. Allen moved that BCRCDD sign and file the NOE; Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously
- v) Grant extension Letter for Sierra Nevada Conservancy 1312, Concow Resilience - Cait Bell – Would extend the deadline from end of 2024 to end of 2027. Even though grant is 95% expended and the only remaining deliverable is some scattered replanting, having more time to complete this would allow for greater replanting success by spreading small efforts over multiple seasons. Allen moved to request the extension, Andy seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- w) Next Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 9:00 AM, Location: Klamath Conference Room 202 Mira Loma Drive, Oroville, CA

7. RCD PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS -STAFF REPORTS

- a) Project Updates- Unfortunately, the Healthy Soils Program got cut at the state level, affecting BCRCDD's hopes of providing technical assistance to growers in the future. Happily, we've had some interest in our RPF position and are looking forward to interviewing RPFs and business managers. In the meantime, we continue to have strong relationships with our contract RPFs, who do a great job for us.

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

- a) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- b) Butte County departments
- c) Community groups – Jim Houtman from BCFSC says they look forward to working with us on all the projects affected by the Park Fire.

9. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

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

ADJOURNMENT – 11:04 am

***NOTE:** The Butte County Resources Conservation District (BCRCDD) 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: bcrcdd@carcd.org. The BCRCDD 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