

RCRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



September 16, 2022

ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

- The RCRC Board of Directors approved the 2023 RCRC Meeting Schedule.
- The RCRC Board of Directors approved the report of findings from the Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee.



2022 Photo Contest Winner
Jay Coberly
Inyo County

MESSAGE BOARD

The 2022 Travel Expense Claim can be accessed [here](#). Please complete and submit your claim to Maggie Chui at mchui@rcrcnet.org.

For the latest news and updates, please subscribe to the Barbed Wire [here](#).

The Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) Board of Directors meeting took place on Friday, September 16th. The RCRC Board of Directors reviewed many issues, and the following are highlights:

RCRC Chair's Report

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, thanked everyone for attending the 2022 Annual Meeting. The 2022 Annual Meeting County Basket Auction & Drawing raised approximately \$67,000 for the charities Supervisor Miller selected, which include the Nevada County Law Enforcement and Fire Prevention Council, the Kare Crisis Nursery, the Nevada County Senior Center (dba, Gold Country Senior Services), and the Bright Futures for Youth (dba, The Friendship Club).

President's Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a report on recent activities the organization is engaged in that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan. Mr. Blacklock also highlighted recent successes by the Governmental Affairs Department. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of the 2023 RCRC Meeting Schedule - APPROVED

The RCRC Executive Committee, at their July 13th meeting, approved the alignment of RCRC, GSFA, and GSCA meetings to take place on the same day beginning in 2023. Subsequently, the RCRC Board of Directors approved the 2023 RCRC Meeting Schedule as proposed. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The meeting schedule can be accessed [here](#).

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Governmental Affairs Department's presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee Report - APPROVED

Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) Chair, and Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided the Committee's report of findings. The Committee met six times before composing its final report. The RCRC Board of Directors adopted a comprehensive set of amendments to the RCRC Forest and Public Lands Stewardship Policy Principles at the June RCRC Board of Directors meeting. Recently, the Committee reviewed the Senate Bill 190 model defensible space program at the request of the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The memo/report can be accessed [here](#).

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, provided an update on efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies, including the state wildfire and forest resilience State Budget, forest/wildfire-related bills, and the California State Board of Forestry's "Zone Zero" regulations. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's involvement at the California Public Utilities Commission. Mr. Kennedy focused on the Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings and the undergrounding proceedings. The memo can be accessed [here](#). The list of RCRC open proceedings list can be accessed [here](#).

Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California water policy, including water policy priorities and appropriations in the State Budget, and water-related bills. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, and American Continental Group's (ACG) Senior Partner Sheryl Cohen, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. The memo can be accessed [here](#).

On the state level, Governor Newsom has until September 30th to sign or veto measures from the 2022 Legislative Session. The State Legislature will convene on January 3, 2023. Ms. Warmerdam called attention to RCRC's summary of the final 2022-23 Budget Package, which can be accessed [here](#). A listing of [all bills tracked](#) can be accessed [here](#).

John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, provided a update on the status of bills relating to the solar panel exemption for wildfire rebuilds, utility vegetation management, and utility undergrounding. Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, provided an update on the status of bills relating to the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Court Program (CARE Court), sheriff-coroner, cannabis, and the Brown Act.

On the federal level, Ms. Cohen focused on the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, Farm Bill reauthorization, and the Wildfire Protection Act. The presentation from ACG can be accessed [here](#).

Closed Session

The RCRC Board of Directors discussed Item 8. Closed Session: Existing Litigation. The name of the case is Rural County Representatives of California v. California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, et al., Fresno County Superior Court Case No. 22CECG00123.

Please refer to the RCRC Board Packet and Supplemental Packet for further details related to the items above, as well as other items covered during the meeting. The RCRC Board Packet and Supplemental Packet can be accessed [here](#).

