

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions**

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur Wylene, and Director of Board Operations, Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

**Supervisor**

David Griffith  
Brian Oneto  
Doug Teeter  
Jack Garamendi  
Denise Carter  
Gerry Hemmingsen  
Lori Parlin  
Paul Barr  
Rex Bohn  
Michael Kelley  
Matt Kingsley  
EJ Crandell  
Aaron Albaugh\*/Gary Bridges  
Robert Poythress  
Miles Menetrey  
Lloyd Pareira  
Geri Byrne  
Stacy Corless  
Chris Lopez  
Dan Miller  
Jim Holmes  
Kevin Goss  
Bob Tiffany  
John Peschong  
Bob Nelson  
Les Baugh  
Lee Adams  
Michael Kobseff  
Mat Conant  
Bob Williams  
Jeremy Brown

**County**

Alpine  
Amador  
Butte  
Calaveras  
Colusa  
Del Norte  
El Dorado  
Glenn  
Humboldt  
Imperial  
Inyo  
Lake  
Lassen  
Madera  
Mariposa  
Merced  
Modoc  
Mono  
Monterey  
Nevada  
Placer  
Plumas  
San Benito  
San Luis Obispo  
Santa Barbara  
Shasta  
Sierra  
Siskiyou  
Sutter  
Tehama  
Trinity

Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff	Tuolumne
Angel Barajas	Yolo
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

**Absent**

Glenn McGourty	Mendocino
Diane Dillon	Napa
James Gore	Sonoma

**2022 Officers Swearing-In**

Chair Dan Miller, Nevada County, introduced Senator Brian Dahle (R-Bieber) to the RCRC Board of Directors. Senator Dahle conducted the swearing-in of the 2022 Officers:

2022 Chair	Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County
2022 First Vice Chair	Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County
2022 Second Vice Chair	Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County
2022 Immediate Past Chair	Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**

None

**Consent Agenda**

- a. **December 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution TC001-22: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the RCRC Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361**
- c. **RCRC Resolution 22-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy**
- d. **RCRC Resolution 22-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct**
- e. **RCRC 2022 Investment Policy Renewal**

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

**Supervisor Mat Conant, Sutter County, motioned to approve the following: minutes from the December 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting; RCRC Resolution TC001-22; RCRC Resolution 22-01; RCRC Resolution 22-02; and, RCRC 2022 Investment Policy Renewal. Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**Not Voting: Amador County; Humboldt County; Placer County; Santa Barbara County; Siskiyou County; Yuba County**

### **RCRC Outgoing Chair Remarks**

Immediate Past Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, thanked fellow supervisors and RCRC staff for placing their trust in her during 2021. Supervisor Corless provided highlights of the year, which included gaining insight into what RCRC and its affiliated entities do, hosting the June Board of Directors meeting in Mono County, and the hiring of President and CEO Patrick Blacklock and Senior Governmental Affairs Vice President Mary-Ann Warmerdam.

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, presented Supervisor Corless with a gift as a token of appreciation. In the absence of Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County, who helped curate the wine selection, Ms. Warmerdam explained that the wines are from woman-owned wineries.

### **RCRC Incoming Chair Remarks**

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, expressed his enthusiasm to serve as RCRC's 2022 Chair, and is optimistic for what lies ahead.

Supervisor Miller announced his committee appointments which are as follows:

- Legislative Committee:
  - Chair – Supervisor John Peschong, San Luis Obispo County
  - Vice Chair – Supervisor Diane Dillon, Napa County
- Regulatory Committee:
  - Chair – Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County
  - Vice Chair – Supervisor Eddie Crandell, Lake County
- Water and Natural Resources Committee:
  - Chair – Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County
  - Vice Chair – Supervisor Dennis Townsend, Tulare County

### **Member County Concerns and Issues**

Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, spoke about winter weather closures and problematic vehicle navigation systems. Several supervisors chimed in agreement with Supervisor Adams' concerns. Supervisor Adams asked if RCRC could assist with starting a collective conversation with the California Department of Transportation and other stakeholders to work on regional approaches.

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, shared her frustration about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) denial of Individual Assistance for damages caused by the Caldor Fire, and asked for RCRC assistance.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, inquired about the status of Williamson Act as it was not included in the Governor's 2022-23 proposed Budget, and would like RCRC Member Counties to reach out to their Farm Bureaus on this matter. Additionally, despite

the recent winter rains and snow, Supervisor Byrne noted ongoing water issues and asked for suggestions to get attention of the Biden Administration.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, shared that Alpine County will have a job opening for Alpine County's District Attorney position, as the current District Attorney will not be seeking reelection.

Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, echoed Supervisor Byrne's comment regarding Williamson Act. Supervisor Lopez also noted that as a result of redistricting, Monterey County now has two congressional members, and encouraged other counties to check if they also have overlapping representation.

Supervisor Bob Tiffany, San Benito County, echoed Supervisor Lopez' comment regarding the recent redistricting and overlapping representation. Supervisor Tiffany also echoed Supervisor Byrne's comment regarding Williamson Act. Lastly, Supervisor Tiffany noted his concern regarding availability of coronavirus (COVID-19) testing sites.

Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, shared his concern regarding the lack of qualified teachers in rural areas. Supervisor Brown also shared that Trinity County is in the process of forming a Community Choice Aggregation program that would allow them to generate electricity, and asked for advice from fellow supervisors.

### **President's Report**

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided a report on recent activities the organization is engaged on that align with the RCRC Strategic Plan goals. They are:

- **Equitable Access:** the upcoming meeting of the Golden State Connect Authority Executive Committee, meeting with affordable/workforce housing entities, and meeting with State Rural Health Services.
- **Impactful Advocacy:** the inaugural legislative call-in by the Governmental Affairs Department, release of the Rural Rundown, inclusion of local public health funding in the Governor's 2022-23 proposed Budget, op-ed with the Sacramento Bee on illicit cannabis, stalled measure which would have the California Department of Toxic Substances Control liens taking priority over county property taxes, release of the Rural Recap highlighting RCRC's 2021 advocacy work, and recent testimony on Assembly Bill 1154 (Patterson) and Assembly Bill 1159 (Gallagher).
- **Health Communities:** recent meeting of the RCRC's Wildfire Ad Hoc Committee discussion with the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), and recent county visits by the Economic Development Department.
- **Operational Excellence:** release of RCRC's Membership Handbook, Sacramento County's new health order, and financial forecasts.

### **Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority Update**

ESJPA Chair, Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, and Staci Heaton, Senior Policy Advocate, discussed the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority's (ESJPA) recent activities. Ms. Heaton and Supervisor Kobseff provided an

overview of ESJPA and the benefits of joining, which include networking and partnership opportunities, technical support, compliance assistance, access to grant management opportunities, and assistance from enforcement actions by agencies. Ms. Heaton also discussed the development of a business plan, which would evaluate, expand, and improve services offered to ESJPA Member Counties for the foreseeable future. Additionally, Ms. Heaton has been elevated to the role of Deputy Executive Director for ESJPA.

Following the update, Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, announced his re-appointment of Supervisor Kobseff as ESJPA Chair and Supervisor Lori Parlin (El Dorado) as ESJPA Vice Chair.

### **Adoption of RCRC's 2022 Policy Principles**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an overview of the proposed RCRC 2022 Policy Principles, and explained that the December 2021 RCRC Board Packet contained the draft RCRC 2022 Policy Principles.

RCRC staff received recommended changes from a couple of RCRC member counties. The edits and amendments recommended by RCRC member counties and staff are being presented in the January 2022 RCRC Board Packet.

Ms. Warmerdam noted that RCRC staff have had recent discussions regarding tribal relations, and Supervisor Irvin Jim, Alpine County, shared his desire for RCRC to connect with tribes to give them a voice. The RCRC Board of Supervisors engaged in a discussion of what RCRC can do to effectively foster strong tribal relations. Supervisor Eddie Crandell, Lake County, volunteered to assist with this endeavor.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the draft 2022 Policy Principles as proposed, including the amendments and edits proposed by RCRC member counties and staff.

**Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, motioned to approve the proposed 2022 Policy Principles. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:**

**Not Voting: Siskiyou County**

\*Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County joined the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

### **Guest Speaker - University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Glenda Humiston, Vice President, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), provided an overview of recent activities and program highlights at UC ANR. Following Ms. Humiston's presentation, supervisors and Ms. Humiston engaged in a question and answer period.

## **Overview of the State Budget**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an overview of the Governor's 2022-23 proposed Budget, which was released on January 10, 2022. Ms. Warmerdam highlighted the programs/policy areas, including COVID-19 response, climate resiliency, combating homelessness, public safety investment, and cost of living assistance. Notable proposed funding include: development of regulatory scheme for lithium extraction; monies for wildfire and forest resiliency; broadband funding; builds on consolidation into the Department of Cannabis Control; infusion into Behavioral Health and Local Health Jurisdictions; continued investments in water use efficiency and conservation; suspension of inflation adjustment to gas tax; and, investment to accelerate Zero Emission Vehicle market. Ms. Warmerdam requested supervisors to review *RCRC's Rural Rundown: Governor's 2022-23 Proposed Budget*.

Following Ms. Warmerdam's overview, the RCRC Board of Directors and Ms. Warmerdam engaged in a discussion regarding efforts to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (Senate Bill 1383), Williamson Act, and Sites Reservoir.

## **Informational Presentation Regarding Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. Board of Directors Composition**

GSNR Chair, Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, GSNR Vice Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, and Patrick Blacklock provided an update on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. (GSNR) Board of Directors' consideration and initial response to the request by the RCRC Board of Directors to consider adding one or more additional RCRC Delegates to the GSNR Board of Directors.

To begin evaluating the entity's long-term plans and needs, the GSNR Chair and Vice Chair have been working with RCRC staff to identify potential options for further consideration. Several preliminary recommendations for further consideration include: increasing the length of GSNR Board of Director members term to two years; conducting appointments annually at the January RCRC and GSFA Board of Directors meetings; requesting that interested RCRC and GSFA Board of Directors submit a statement of interest; and, deferring action to expand GSNR Board of Directors at this time to allow further evaluation and engagement with potential partners and investors. These recommendations will be presented to the full GSNR Board of Directors for further consideration at their next meeting.

Supervisor Miles Menetrey left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

## **Water Issues Update**

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California's water policy. Mr. Nag discussed state agencies' push forward with water use restrictions despite rain from the past month, the Governor's 2022-23 proposed Budget that builds off of last year's blueprint for water programs, and expectation from the Newsom Administration to greenlight at least some Proposition 1 storage projects this year.

### **Forest Management and Wildfire Update**

Staci Heaton provided an update on efforts in the Legislature and various state and federal agencies to address California's persistent and catastrophic wildfire events. Ms. Heaton discussed the recent meeting of the RCRC Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee whereby members met with representatives from PG&E, and the upcoming meeting whereby members will have an opportunity to meet with representatives from the USDA Forest Service. Ms. Heaton also highlighted the introduction of the FEMA Improvement, Reform and Efficient Act, and the Disaster Equity and Fairness Act by Senator Alex Padilla which aim to enhance preparedness and improve federal aid to communities hit hardest by catastrophic wildfires.

### **Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature**

Staci Heaton provided an overview of the Newsom Administration's draft *Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature*, which represents California's strategy to conserve 30 percent of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030. Ms. Heaton outlined the problematic definition of "conserved" in the draft both at the state and federal level. The current definition would exclude national forest system and Bureau of Land Management lands due to "extractive uses," such as logging and off-highway vehicle recreation. RCRC staff is reviewing the draft and will be submitting comments by the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Supervisor Stacy Corless (Mono County), who serves on the 30x30 Advisory Committee, expressed her objective to amend the current definition.

### **State and Federal Legislative Update**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an update on issues being addressed at the state level. Ms. Warmerdam noted the State Legislature returned on January 3, 2022 for the 2022 Legislative Session, as well as discussed the potential priority topics for the 2022 Legislative Session in the midst of a year with an election, redistricting, and state revenue surplus. Ms. Warmerdam expects the State Legislature will focus on housing/homelessness, drought, energy, and forest stewardship. Lastly, Ms. Warmerdam invited interested RCRC Board Members to join the inaugural legislative call-in on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Additionally, Sheryl Cohen, Partner, American Continental Group, provided an update on issues being addressed at the federal level. An update was provided on the following: the continuing resolution, debt ceiling, Bipartisan Infrastructure Act implementation, Build Back Better Act, FY 2023 appropriations, Farm Bill reauthorization strategic plan, and the final rule for the American Rescue Plan Act.

### **Board of Forestry State Fire Safe Regulations Update**

Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, provided a brief update on the Board of Forestry's (BOF) revisions to the State Fire Safe Regulations. Ms. Rhine reminded supervisors that the BOF approved its draft proposal for submission to the Office of Administrative Law, and voted to move forward with a 15-day modified text comment period in December 2021. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the BOF released another revised draft thereby triggering a 15-

day modified text public comment period which will close on January 19, 2022. The new regulatory language fails to address issues previously outlined by county coalition and creates more confusion. RCRC, along with a local government working group, will be submitting comments and will share with the RCRC Board of Directors once it has been filed.

### **California Air Resources Board's Amendments to Small Off-Road Engine Regulations**

Leigh Kammerich, Policy Advocate, provided an overview of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) recently adopted revisions to Small Off-Road Engine (SORE) regulations. Ms. Kammerich explained that SORE are spark-ignition engines with rated power at or below 25 horsepower, such as lawn and garden equipment, portable generators and pressure washers.

Beginning in 2024, manufacturers of SORE will be required to produce zero-emission equipment. Portable generators and pressure washers will have a delayed phase-in to allow for the development of zero-emission technology. Stationary equipment and diesel-fueled engines, large chainsaws used for Timber Operations, and 175 horsepower equipment used in farm and construction equipment are not affected by these regulations.

### **California Public Utilities Commission Update**

John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, and Leigh Kammerich provided an update on RCRC's involvement at CPUC. Mr. Kennedy focused on the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) proposal of requiring investor-owned utilities to procure biogas from landfills. Ms. Kammerich focused on the Wildfire Mitigations Plan Proceeding closure, and the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety's announcement of the 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan update schedule.

### **Closed Session: Initiation of Litigation**

Conference with Legal Counsel pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9 subdivision (d)(4). One case.

The RCRC Board of Directors convened a closed session at 12:46 p.m. per Section 54957 and Section 54957.6 of the Government Code.

The RCRC Board of Directors reconvened into open session at 1:01 p.m.

### **Report of any Action taken under Item 15 Pursuant to Section 54957.1 of the Government Code**

Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, stated that no reportable action had been taken in closed session.

### **Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:04 p.m.