

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Board Room  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

In accordance with Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20, the January 13, 2021  
RCRC Board of Directors meeting was held virtually.

**MINUTES**

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

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.  
A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<b><u>Supervisor</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>
David Griffith	Alpine
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Denise Carter	Colusa
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
Paul Barr	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Bruno Sabatier	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Glenn McGourty	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Mat Conant	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff	Tuolumne

Randy Fletcher                      Yuba

**Absent**

Brian Oneto	Amador
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Bob Tiffany	San Benito
Lynda Hopkins	Sonoma
Angel Barajas	Yolo

**Others in Attendance**

Supervisor Terry Woodrow, Alpine County  
Supervisor Steven Madrone, Humboldt County  
Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County  
Supervisor Marshall Long, Mariposa County  
Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County  
Supervisor John Peters, Mono County  
Supervisor Jill Cox, Trinity County  
Supervisor Larry Micari, Tulare County  
Supervisor Gary Bradford, Yuba County  
Julie Patterson-Hunter, Nevada County  
Jeffrey Thorsby, Nevada County  
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund  
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency  
Randy Hanvelt, Associated California Loggers  
Justin Caporusso, Caporusso Communications  
Robbie Bendorf  
Mark Scheffel  
Marcia Slater

**Staff in Attendance**

Greg Norton, President and CEO  
Lisa McCargar, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer  
Craig Ferguson, Senior Vice President  
Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs  
Barbara Hayes, Chief Economic Development Officer  
John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate  
Tracy Rhine, Senior Legislative Advocate  
Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate  
Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate  
Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate  
Arthur Wylene, General Counsel  
Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board  
Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Specialist  
Milena De Melo, Controller  
Dorothy Poole, External Affairs Coordinator

Layne Frederickson, IT Director  
Elizabeth Jensen, Assistant Controller  
Sanjay Lee, Financial Analyst  
Anthony Rahill, Data and Program Development Manager  
Sarah Bolnik, Economic Development Officer

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **2021 Officers Swearing-In**

Chair Stacy Corless, Mono County, introduced Congressman John Garamendi (D-Yolo) to the RCRC Board of Directors. Congressman Garamendi conducted the swearing-in of the 2021 Officers:

2021 Chair	Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County
2021 First Vice Chair	Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County
2021 Second Vice Chair	Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County
2021 Immediate Past Chair	Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County

### **Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2020**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, called for approval of the minutes from the December 9, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:**

**Not Voting: Lake County; Mendocino County**

### **RCRC Outgoing Chair Remarks**

Immediate Past Chair, Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, thanked fellow supervisors and RCRC staff for placing their trust in him during a difficult year caused by coronavirus (COVID-19). On a positive note, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought much-needed attention to broadband access issues across the state.

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, presented Supervisor McDaniel with a gift as a token of appreciation.

### **RCRC Incoming Chair Remarks**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, expressed her enthusiasm to serve as RCRC's 2021 Chair, and is optimistic for a better year ahead. Supervisor Corless shared that recruitment for the next RCRC President progresses, and thanked the RCRC Search Committee/Executive Committee for their efforts.

Since RCRC Board Members were unable to travel to Merced County in 2020, Supervisor Corless hopes to host a 2021 RCRC Board of Directors meeting in Merced County.

Supervisor Corless looks forward to hosting the County of the Chair meeting in Mono County in June 2021.

It was also announced that later this evening, RCRC will be hosting a virtual Annual Reception to honor the recipients of the Rural Leadership Awards as well as a panel discussion on The Pursuit of Holistic Wildfire Solutions for 2021. Supervisor Corless noted that wildfire solutions will be a priority for her in 2021.

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

Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, stressed the importance of addressing wildfire impacts, and the interconnected relationship between the forest, water and the agriculture industry.

Supervisor Paul Barr, Glenn County, expressed his concern that Glenn County is underfunded relative to state assistance for child support. Supervisor Barr believes this is a great inequity and asked RCRC for assistance.

Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, shared her excitement that broadband access is being discussed. Supervisor Byrne requested that broadband be at the forefront of efforts since it impacts schools, hospitals, and public participation in meetings.

Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, spoke about the importance of broadband access, and discussed the Digital 299 Project. Supervisor Brown asked for RCRC's assistance in gaining clarity on the Digital 299 Project.

Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Lake County, spoke about the importance of broadband access and Assembly Bill 14 (Aguilar-Curry) relating to broadband services. Supervisor Sabatier shared his concern regarding fire suppression, the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), and the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP).

Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, spoke about the importance of broadband access. In addition, Supervisor Lopez noted that PSPS is a critical issue in Monterey County.

Supervisor John Peters, Mono County, spoke about the importance of broadband access, and shared that he serves on the California State Association of Counties' Broadband Task Force as well as the National Association of Counties' Broadband Task Force.

Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County, shared his observation that while there are existing fiber lines laid down for internet access, communities cannot access the services.

Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County, shared his concern about drought conditions, the State Water Resources Control Board's curtailment of diversion, and septic line issues. Supervisor McGourty also shared that Mendocino County is working on a plan to successfully distribute the COVID-19 vaccination.

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, conveyed his concern regarding changes by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on prisoner drop-off locations. Supervisor Albaugh also shared that Lassen County is seeking compensation from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for damages caused by wolves killing livestock, but have yet to receive a response. Supervisor Albaugh also discussed the ongoing struggle to obtain a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) extension from the state.

### **Public Comments**

Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund, congratulated the 2021 slate of officers and wished everyone a happy new year.

### **President's Report**

Greg Norton, President and CEO, welcomed supervisors to the first RCRC Board of Directors meeting of the year, and congratulated the 2021 slate of officers. Mr. Norton is pleased to continue to serve as the President and CEO of RCRC until a new individual is selected.

Mr. Norton announced that RCRC staff Tracy Rhine has been promoted to Senior Legislative Advocate. Mr. Norton introduced Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate, and Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate. Ms. Dukett will concentrate on cannabis, transportation, health and human services, economic development, and other issues as well as assume communications functions during the early part of 2021. Mr. Nag will concentrate on water policy and other natural resources issues.

Mr. Norton noted that RCRC senior staff will be holding an RCRC orientation with new members of the RCRC Board of Directors.

### **RCRC Resolution 21-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy**

Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer, provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Resolution 21-01, Travel Expense Policy for RCRC Delegates and Alternates.

Ms. McCargar discussed proposed changes, including the proposed per-night maximum lodging expense increase from \$140 to \$145 per night. In addition, based on the Internal Revenue Service's 2021 set rate for reimbursement of mileage for personally-owned vehicles, the standard mileage rate has been updated to \$0.56, down from \$0.575 in 2020.

### **Recommendation**

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve the proposed Board Travel Expense Policy, Resolution 21-01.

**Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the RCRC Resolution 21-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy. Supervisor David Griffith,**

**Alpine County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”**

### **RCRC 2021 Investment Policy Renewal**

Lisa McCargar provided an overview of the 2021 Investment Policy Renewal. The Investment Committee, which consists of the RCRC President, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Financial Officer, and Senior Vice President has reviewed the policy and is submitting it for annual review and approval as required.

### **Staff Recommendation**

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve the attached RCRC 2021 Investment Policy.

**Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, motioned to approve the RCRC 2021 Investment Policy Renewal. Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”**

### **RCRC Charity Contribution to Merced County in Lieu of Annual Auction Proceeds**

Greg Norton announced that RCRC will be contributing to Merced County charities in lieu of the annual auction proceeds since the 2020 RCRC Annual Meeting was not held. RCRC is contributing \$50,000 to Merced County charities which will be allocated among several charities.

### **RCRC Resolution 21-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct**

Paul A. Smith, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, provided an overview of Resolution 21-02, the RCRC Board Code of Conduct. Mr. Smith explained that the Code of Conduct is approved annually at the first RCRC Board of Directors meeting of the year.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve RCRC Resolution 21-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the RCRC Resolution 21-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct. Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:**

**Not Voting: Lassen County; Shasta County**

### **Appointment to Fill Executive Committee Region 5 Vacancy**

Greg Norton addressed the RCRC Board of Directors regarding a recent vacancy on the RCRC Executive Committee, and the need to fill the second year of the two-year position for Region 5.

RCRC Board Members from Region 5 convened to caucus and selected a representative to serve on the 2021 RCRC Executive Committee. Following this time, the RCRC Board of Directors reconvened and Region 5 reported the following selections for the 2021 Executive Committee:

Region 5: Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County

**Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, motioned to approve the appointment of Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County, to serve on the 2021 RCRC Executive Committee. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:**

**Not Voting: Monterey County; Shasta County; Trinity County**

### **Adoption of RCRC’s 2021 Policy Principles**

Paul A. Smith provided an overview of the proposed RCRC 2021 Policy Principles, and explained that the December 2020 RCRC Board Packet contained the draft RCRC 2021 Policy Principles.

RCRC staff received recommended changes from a handful of RCRC member counties. The edits and amendments recommended by RCRC member counties and staff are being presented in the January 2021 RCRC Board Packet.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the draft 2021 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 2021 Policy Principles. Supervisor Jeremy Brown, Trinity County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”**

### **Overview of the State Budget**

Paul A. Smith provided a brief overview of the Governor’s 2021-22 proposed Budget, which was released on January 8, 2021. Mr. Smith requested supervisors to review *RCRC’s Rural Rundown: Governor’s 2021-22 Proposed Budget*.

Mr. Smith highlighted the following: COVID-19 recovery package, which would assist small businesses, low-income households, schools, increase permanent housing, and stave off eviction; additional financial support to fairs; and, ongoing funding to counties to support the juvenile justice realignment. Unfortunately, the Governor’s 2021-22 proposed Budget does not address Williamson Act.

Mr. Smith also discussed funding for increased COVID-19 vaccine distribution, as well as increased behavioral health services due to the pandemic.

Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, highlighted the following: funding for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to continue wildfire response capabilities; home hardening and defensible space assistance for homeowners in high-fire risk communities; funding for the Climate Catalyst Fund; and, a 2-year expenditure plan to allocate current year and 2021-22 Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds.

Tracy Rhine, Senior Legislative Advocate, highlighted the following: funding to provide local governments with assistance to increase housing production; and, grants for local governments to encourage Project Homekey projects. Unfortunately, the Governor's 2021-22 proposed Budget does not include an appropriation for the Broadband for All initiative, and other broadband-related efforts were lacking.

John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, highlighted the following: loans for climate smart agriculture projects to reduce climate emissions; and, funding to expediate the clean-up of contaminated properties.

Sidd Nag highlighted the following: funding for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program; and, grants to support local planning and implementation of SGMA.

### **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 Governor's Forest Management Task Force's recent release of the comprehensive Forest Management Task Force Action Plan which details the state's forest management, restoration, and wildfire prevention needs.

Ms. Heaton and John Kennedy provided an update on efforts to pursue legislative actions as part of RCRC's Wildfire Prevention and Response Package. Due to a delayed start of the 2021 Legislative Session, RCRC staff is continuing conversations with potential authors and other organizations with similar policy goals.

### **State & Federal Legislative Update**

The Governmental Affairs Department provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the federal level, Paul A. Smith focused the discussion on RCRC's priority to enact another federal COVID-19 relief package that includes direct funding to low-population counties. Mr. Smith noted that the next round of COVID-19 relief package would also include infrastructure-related components.

At the state level, Mr. Smith noted that the Legislature reconvened the 2021 Legislative Session on January 11<sup>th</sup>, after a one-week delay to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. At this time, bills are being introduced and will continue until bill introduction deadline on February 19<sup>th</sup>.



Mr. Smith briefly highlighted key bills, including Senate Bill 4 (Gonzalez) relating to broadband infrastructure projects, Senate Bill 52 (Dodd) relating to de-energization events, and Senate Bill 55 (Stern) relating to commercial and residential development in Very High Fire Hazards Severity Zones and State Responsibility Areas.

Tracy Rhine elaborated on SB 4, and noted while the bill is not perfect, it is a good start to begin discussing changes as to how the state funds broadband infrastructure projects. It is expected that more broadband-related bills, including bills to address the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) and local permit streamlining, will be introduced.

John Kennedy elaborated on SB 52, which is a follow-up bill from last year's Senate Bill 862 (Dodd). Mr. Kennedy also discussed working with the Department of Toxic Substances Control on treated wood waste solutions. Lastly, Mr. Kennedy discussed solid waste and recycling-related bills, including Senate Bill 38 (Wieckowski), which would require beverage manufacturers to form a stewardship organization.

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

John Kennedy and Leigh Kammerich, Regulatory Affairs Specialist, provided an update on the progress of several California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) proceedings, including on the Wildfire Mitigation Plans proceeding, the De-Energization proceeding, the SGIP proceeding, the Microgrids and Resiliency proceeding, the Emergency Disaster Relief Program proceeding, the CASF proceeding, the Broadband Deployment proceeding, and the Frontier Bankruptcy proceeding.

After a month-long hiatus, the CPUC is expected to reengage on the CASF proceeding and the Microgrids and Resiliency proceeding at their January voting meeting. In addition, the Emergency Disaster Relief Program proceeding has entered its third phase and would explore a narrowly tailored disconnection moratorium for specified customers of electric and natural gas utilities.

### **Water Issues Update**

Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on issues involving California water policy. At the state level, Mr. Nag noted that introduction of water-related legislation has been slow-going. Mr. Nag discussed the introduction of a resources bond proposal by the State Legislature.

### **Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 3:06 p.m.