

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
1215 K Street, Suite 1650 – Board Room
Sacramento, CA 95814**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
David Griffith	Alpine
Lynn Morgan	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Denise Carter	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Michael Ranalli	El Dorado
John Viegas	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Michael Kelley	Imperial
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
Jim Steele	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
David Rogers	Madera
Carre Brown	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Dan Miller	Nevada
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Anthony Botelho	San Benito
Les Baugh	Shasta
Lee Adams	Sierra
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
Larry Munger	Sutter
Bob Williams	Tehama
John Fenley	Trinity
Kuyler Crocker	Tulare
Randy Hanvelt	Tuolumne
Matt Rexroad	Yolo
Randy Fletcher	Yuba

Absent

Kevin Cann	Mariposa
Diane Dillon	Napa
Jim Holmes	Placer
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo

Others in Attendance

Supervisor Terry Woodrow, Alpine County
Supervisor Virginia Bass, Humboldt County
Supervisor Lloyd Pareira, Merced County
Kim Dolbow Vann, USDA Rural Development
Jonathan Shuffield, National Association of Counties
DeAnn Baker, California State Association of Counties
Cara Martinson, California State Association of Counties
Nick Cronenwett, California State Association of Counties
Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy
Gerald H. Meral
Serita K. Cox, iFoster
Reid Cox, iFoster
Robert Bendorf Jr., Renovate America/HERO
Dustin Reilich, Renovate America/HERO
Crystal Crawford, Ygrene Energy Fund
Nikki McQuaid, Ygrene Energy Fund
Mark Rodgers, Ygrene Energy Fund
Mike Lemyre, Ygrene Energy Fund
Ed Horton, Placer County Water Agency
Assembly Member Brian Dahle
Megan Dahle

Staff in Attendance

Greg Norton, President and CEO
Craig Ferguson, Vice President
Lisa McCargar, Chief Financial Officer
Justin Caporusso, Vice President External Affairs
Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Legislative Advocate
Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate
Mary Pitto, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Staci Heaton, Regulatory Affairs Advocate
Arthur Wylene, Governmental Affairs Counsel
Terrance Rodgers, Economic Development Officer
Maggie Chui, Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Santinia Pasquini, External Affairs Coordinator
Sarah Bolnik, Board Relations & Business Development
Carolyn Sunseri, Marketing Director

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2017

Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, called for approval of the minutes from the December 6, 2017 RCRC Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County, motioned to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2017 RCRC Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Abstaining:

Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County; Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Jim Holmes, Placer County; Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County

RCRC Outgoing Chair's Remarks

Immediate Past Chair, Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County, thanked fellow supervisors for placing their trust in him to represent RCRC in 2017. Supervisor Williams provided a summary of accomplishments and achievements during his tenure as Chair of the RCRC Board of Directors, which include deferring Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer) and defeating Senate Bill 649 (Hueso).

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County, shared that Colusa County is embracing the cannabis infrastructure.

Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County, shared that the Sheriff of Glenn County approached members of the Glenn County Board of Supervisors on presenting a resolution regarding "open carry" of firearms, and asked if other supervisors have been approached by their county's sheriff.

Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County, voiced his concern regarding illegal cannabis grows in Yuba County. Supervisor Fletcher asked for support from Board Members on establishing a cannabis ad-hoc committee to discuss illegal cannabis.

Supervisor David Roger, Madera County, voiced his concern regarding the California Water Commission's bias against dam projects.

Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County, voiced his continued concern regarding high-risk and low-risk fire insurance issues.

Supervisor Steele also echoed Supervisor Fletcher's concern regarding illegal cannabis grows.

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, shared concerns he has with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection cracking down on the use of retired annuitants.

Supervisor Griffith also voiced his continued concern regarding fees imposed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Public Comments

Supervisor Virginia Bass, Humboldt County, congratulated Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, on being installed as the 2018 Chair for RCRC.

President's Report

Greg Norton, President and CEO, reminded supervisors of the 2018 Installation of Officers and Rural Leadership Awards Reception being held later in the evening. The event will be held on the 14th floor in the California Chamber of Commerce's California Room.

Mr. Norton noted distribution of the RCRC 2017 Annual Report, and encouraged Board Members to share with their colleagues and staff.

Paul A. Smith, RCRC Vice President Governmental Affairs, presented DeAnn Baker, Deputy Executive Director for Legislative Affairs of California State Association of Counties, a commemorative plaque for her work and dedication to all of California's 58 counties. Board Members joined in applauding Ms. Baker and her well-deserved retirement.

RCRC Resolution 18-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy

Lisa McCargar, RCRC Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Resolution 18-01, Travel Expense Policy for RCRC delegates and alternates. The Travel Expense Policy was approved by the RCRC Executive Committee at their November 15, 2017 meeting.

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve the proposed Resolution 18-01, Travel Expense Policy.

Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, made a motion to approve RCRC Resolution 18-01. Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting "Aye."

RCRC Resolution 18-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct

Paul A. Smith provided an overview of the proposed revisions to Resolution 18-02, 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.

Mr. Smith shared with the RCRC Board of Directors that the RCRC Executive Management reviewed the Code of Conduct adopted in January 2017, and determined necessary revisions were needed to better address the concerns regarding discrimination and harassment. The proposed amendments were reviewed by the RCRC Executive Committee at their November 15, 2017 meeting.

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve the amended Code of Conduct.

Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, motioned to approve RCRC Resolution 18-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct with amendments. Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

Overview of the State Budget

RCRC staff provided an overview of the Governor’s 2018-19 proposed State Budget, which was released on January 10, 2018. Paul A. Smith and Staci Heaton, RCRC Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an overview of *The Rural Rundown*, which provided an in-depth look at the Governor’s 2018-19 proposed Budget.

Key issues and changes of importance to RCRC Member Counties contained in the proposed State Budget include: funding to support a program to modernize county voting systems; funding to support courts’ infrastructure projects; funding for continuation of \$644,000 for the State’s Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program; and, new funding and programs to address a broad spectrum of wildfire response and recovery issues. Governor Brown has not yet proposed an expenditure plan for Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds.

Adoption of RCRC’s 2018 Policy Principles

Paul A. Smith provided an overview of the proposed RCRC 2018 Policy Principles, and explained that the December 2017 RCRC Board Packet contained the draft RCRC 2018 Policy Principles. Mr. Smith reminded the RCRC Board of Directors that staff dramatically revised the previously-adopted Policy Principles in order to eliminate redundancies, and simplify the document for ease of use.

RCRC staff received recommended changes from a handful of RCRC Member Counties. RCRC staff recommended additional edits to the draft RCRC 2018 Policy Principles. The edits and amendments recommended by RCRC Member Counties and staff was presented.

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the draft 2018 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 2018 Policy Principles. Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County, seconded the motion. Motion passes with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

California Tree Mortality Task Force Update

Staci Heaton reported on recent activities of the California Tree Mortality Task Force (Task Force), which meets monthly.

Ms. Heaton reported that the USDA Forest Service (USFS) concluded their round of aerial surveys in July 2017, and results showed an additional 27 million dead trees within the last year, bringing the total since 2010 to 129 million.

Ms. Heaton reported that the Task Force's Insurance Subgroup continues to work on the issue of homeowners' insurance cancellations and non-renewals due to wildfire risk. The Insurance Subgroup is also working on developing a tiered risk management model to serve as a potential mechanism for insurers to offer discounts and other incentives to homeowners for taking steps to prevent wildfire damage to their homes. Ms. Heaton encouraged supervisors to provide comments on the tiered risk management model.

Finally, Ms. Heaton shared that RCRC has been working with the counties involved in the Task Force to help develop Senate Bill 824 (Lara), which would address insurance coverage in wildfire risk areas. Ms. Heaton urged RCRC Member Counties to consider adopting a “Support” position on SB 824, as RCRC has.

RCRC will continue to update the RCRC Board of Directors on the progress of the Task Force as the group moves forward in addressing the Governor's objectives.

Guest Speaker

Serita K. Cox, CEO and Co-Founder of iFoster, provided an overview on iFoster's 1 Laptop Program for Foster Youth (Program), and presented her plans for distribution of the laptops to eligible foster youth and former foster youth ages 16-21 in RCRC Member Counties.

Ms. Cox thanked the RCRC Board of the Directors for approving the \$200,000 contribution to the Program. RCRC affiliate, National Homebuyers Fund, Inc., partnered with RCRC by contributing an additional \$200,000 to the Program.

Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, RCRC Senior Legislative Advocate, provided an overview of the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018. The bond proposal is currently in circulation for signatures, and if successful in securing enough signatures, will be considered by California voters in November 2018.

Ms. Warmerdam explained that the bond proposal is generally viewed as complementing ongoing efforts to improve and re-invest in needed water-related infrastructure and projects. The bond proposal would issue a total of \$8.365 billion in bonds for a number of existing water-related programs, many of which will benefit rural counties, including: drinking water infrastructure, desalination of brackish groundwater, flood control projects, Integrated Regional Water Management planning, watershed, groundwater recharge, improve groundwater supplies, and Friant Kern Canal.

Both the proponents and opponents of the bond proposal were invited to share their perspectives with the RCRC Board of Directors. Gerald H. Meral, proponent of the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018, provided an overview on the status of Proposition 1 funds, the bond proposal's Senate Bill 5 interaction, the bond proposal's impact on state debt, and programs of interest to RCRC Member Counties.

Staff Recommendation

It was recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors adopt a "Support" position on the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018.

Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County, motioned to adopt a "Support" position on the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018. Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County, seconded the motion. Motion passes by the following roll call vote taken:

Aye: Supervisor Lynn Morgan, Amador County; Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County; Supervisor Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County; Supervisor Denise Carter, Colusa County; Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County; Supervisor Michael Ranalli, El Dorado County; Supervisor John Viegas, Glenn County; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County; Supervisor Michael Kelley, Imperial County; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County; Supervisor Jim Steele, Lake County; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County; Supervisor David Rogers, Madera County; Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County; Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County; Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County; Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County; Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County; Supervisor Anthony Botelho, San Benito County; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County; Supervisor Larry Munger, Sutter County; Supervisor John Fenley, Trinity County; Supervisor Kuyler Crocker, Tulare County; Supervisor Randy Hanvelt, Tuolumne County; Supervisor Randy Fletcher, Yuba County

No: Supervisor Les Baugh, Shasta County; Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County; Supervisor Bob Williams, Tehama County

Abstain: Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County; Supervisor Matt Rexroad, Yolo County

Federal Update

Jonathan Shuffield, Associate Legislative Director, National Association of Counties, provided an update on various federal issues, including the Federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes, Secure Rural Schools, forest management and wildfire funding, tax reform, healthcare, 2018 Farm Bill, and a potential infrastructure package.

State Legislation Update

RCRC staff provided an overview of current state legislation and shared that the California State Legislature, out-of-session since mid-September, reconvened on January 3, 2018.

Paul A. Smith provided an update on Assembly Bill 1250 (Jones-Sawyer). RCRC staff will continue to stay vigilant on defeating this poorly-crafted bill that restricts counties' ability to contract for vital services.

Tracy Rhine, RCRC Legislative Advocate, provided an overview on recently-introduced housing bills and Senate Bill 2 (Atkins), the Building Homes and Jobs Act, which was enacted last year.

Staci Heaton provided an overview on recently-introduced wildfire and insurance-related bills, which include Assembly Bill 1772 (Aguiar-Curry) and Senate Bill 824 (Lara).

CalRecycle's Senate Bill 1383 Organic Waste Diversion Regulations

Mary Pitto, RCRC Regulatory Affairs Advocate, provided an update on the development of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery's (CalRecycle) proposed regulations regarding implementation of Senate Bill 1383 (Lara, 2016) for organic waste diversion from landfills.

Ms. Pitto shared that CalRecycle released the first informal draft of the proposed SB 1383 regulations in October 2017, with comments requested by November 15, 2017. RCRC affiliate, Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority (ESJPA), prepared extensive comments on the proposal, which is over-reaching, unattainable, and cost-prohibitive.

While CalRecycle expects to start the formal rulemaking process in early 2018, with adoption in late 2018 or early 2019, Ms. Pitto voiced her concern that the organic infrastructure necessary to handle all the diverted organic waste will not be constructed within such a short timeframe.

RCRC staff will keep the RCRC Board of Directors informed on the development of the organics diversion regulations, and actively engage during the formal rulemaking process.

California Forest Carbon Plan

Staci Heaton provided an update on the Forest Climate Action Team's (FCAT) draft California Forest Carbon Plan (Plan). In development since early 2015, the most recent version of the Plan was released in January 2017. A final draft of the Plan is slated for public release in the next 30-60 days, and a final document expected by Spring 2018. Ms. Heaton shared that while some progress has been made, internal issues and the need to address public concerns have delayed completion.

FCAT members are reviewing and providing edits to the draft Plan before its release to the public. RCRC will continue to update the RCRC Board of Directors on the progress of the Plan and will forward the public draft to RCRC Member Counties once it is available for public comment.

Guest Speaker

Kim Dolbow Vann, State Director, USDA Rural Development, provided a presentation to the RCRC Board of Directors on USDA's rural development programs, including rural housing, rural business, the community facilities program, and the rural utility services.

Director Vann, previously an RCRC Delegate from Colusa County, was presented with a commemorative plaque by Greg Norton for her leadership and dedication for rural California and RCRC.

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Rex Bohn, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 1:41 p.m.