

**Rural County Representatives of California  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.  
1215 K Street, Suite 1650  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**MINUTES**

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

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

**Supervisor**

David Griffith  
Brian Oneto  
Doug Teeter  
Jack Garamendi/Amanda Folendorf\*  
Daurice Smith  
Darrin Short  
Lori Parlin  
Rex Bohn  
Matt Kingsley  
Doug Verboon  
EJ Crandell  
Aaron Albaugh  
Robert Poythress\*  
Miles Menetrey  
Glenn McGourty  
Daron McDaniel  
Geri Byrne  
Rhonda Duggan  
Chris Lopez  
Anne Cottrell  
Sue Hoek  
Jim Holmes  
Kevin Goss  
Bob Nelson  
Tim Garman  
Lee Adams  
Michael Kobseff  
Mitch Mashburn\*  
Mat Conant  
Bill Moule  
Dennis Townsend

**County**

Alpine  
Amador  
Butte  
Calaveras  
Colusa  
Del Norte  
El Dorado  
Humboldt  
Inyo  
Kings  
Lake  
Lassen  
Madera  
Mariposa  
Mendocino  
Merced  
Modoc  
Mono  
Monterey  
Napa  
Nevada  
Placer  
Plumas  
Santa Barbara  
Shasta  
Sierra  
Siskiyou  
Solano  
Sutter  
Tehama  
Tulare

Kathleen Haff  
Angel Barajas\*  
Gary Bradford

Tuolumne  
Yolo  
Yuba

**Absent**

Thomas Arnold  
Michael Kelley  
Dom Zanger  
John Peschong  
Lynda Hopkins  
Jill Cox

Glenn  
Imperial  
San Benito  
San Luis Obispo  
Sonoma  
Trinity

\*Attendance via Zoom

**Public Comments**

Justin Caporusso, Caporusso Communications and Mountain Counties Water Resources Association, thanked RCRC's Senior Policy Advocate Staci Heaton for her collaboration in 2022 on forest management issues. Mr. Caporusso spoke about the California Department of Transportation's Road Charge Pilot program.

Jim Campbell, Altice, spoke about Altice's outreach objectives and looks forward to connecting with supervisors.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. **December 7, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
- b. **RCRC Resolution TC001-23: Authorizing Remote and Hybrid Teleconference Meetings of the RCRC Board of Directors Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361**
- c. **RCRC Resolution 23-01: RCRC Board Travel Policy**
- d. **2023 Appointments**
  - i. **Designate One Member of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Golden State Natural Resources, Inc. (GSNR) Board of Directors**
  - ii. **Designate First Deputy Chair and Second Deputy Chair of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Water and Natural Resources Matters, Regulatory Matters, and Legislative Matters**
  - iii. **Rural Counties' Nominee to Serve on the National Association of Counties' Western Interstate Region Board**
  - iv. **Appointment of Two Members of the RCRC Board to Serve on the Rural Alliance, Inc. (RAI) Board**
- e. **RCRC 2023 Investment Policy Renewal**
- f. **In-Person and Remote Meeting Participation Policy for RCRC and Affiliated Entities**
- g. **2023 RCRC Meeting Schedule**
- h. **Rural Alliance, Inc. (RAI) Update**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, called for approval of the above-listed consent agenda items.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the consent agenda items. Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except:**

**Not Voting: Placer County; Sutter County; Yolo County**

**Abstain: Colusa County; Mono County; Napa County**

\*Supervisor Jack Garamendi County joined the meeting at 9:13 a.m.

### **2023 Officers Swearing-In**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, introduced Assembly Member James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) to the RCRC Board of Directors. Assembly Member Gallagher conducted the swearing-in of the 2023 Officers:

Chair	Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County
First Vice Chair	Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County
Second Vice Chair	Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County
Executive Committee Member At-Large	Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County

### **RCRC Incoming Chair Remarks**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, welcomed supervisors to the January RCRC Board of Directors meeting, and expressed his enthusiasm to serve as RCRC’s 2023 Chair.

Supervisor Teeter welcomed retired RCRC 2022 Chair Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County, and provided him a moment to address the RCRC Board of Directors. Supervisor Teeter presented Supervisor Miller with a gift as a token of appreciation.

### **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, encompassing Equitable Access, Impactful Advocacy, Healthy Communities, and Operational Excellence.

### **Guest Speaker – Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety**

Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety), addressed the RCRC Board of Directors on Energy Safety’s efforts in counties, including the California Public Utilities Commission’s wildfire safety mitigation plans. The RCRC Board of Directors engaged in discussion with Director Jacobs.

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

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, provided an opportunity for the RCRC Board of Directors to discuss their individual member county concerns and issues. RCRC

staff will review the concerns and issues raised by RCRC Board Members and assess each item for possible plans of action.

The RCRC Board of Directors heard from the following supervisors:

Supervisor Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County, regarding recent storm damages, and a request to establish an RCRC biofuels working group; Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, regarding the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's onerous regulations; Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, regarding response requirements on mobile crisis services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries; Supervisor Daron McDaniel, Merced County, regarding recent storm damages and concerns with the California Department of Fish and Wildfire (CDFW) clean-up permit delays; Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, regarding CDFW and regional water board permit delays; Supervisor Matt Kingsley, Inyo County, regarding on-going emergency medical services issues, and Hipcamp expanding into Inyo County; Supervisor Kathleen Haff, Tuolumne County, requested an update on the existing litigation between RCRC and the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's (BOF), and concerns regarding the state's rollout of the digital driver's license; Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, regarding CDFW permit delays; Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, regarding the Potential Operational Delineations on managed fires, wolf issues, and on-going issues with public noticing requirements in newspapers; Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, regarding earthquake emergency declarations; Supervisor Doug Verboon, Kings County, regarding water pumping and flood concerns; Supervisor John Peters, Mono County, regarding the National Center for Public Lands Policy that will be launched later this year; Supervisor Tim Garman, Shasta County, regarding wolf issues; Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, regarding CDFW permit delays; Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, regarding wolf issues, and CDFW non-issuance of depredation permits to take bears; Supervisor Daurice Smith, Colusa County, regarding CDFW's treatment of elks, and water/water rights issues; Supervisor Bob Nelson, Santa Barbara County, regarding storm damages and disaster aid; Supervisor Robert Poythress, Madera County, regarding the closure an acute care hospital in Madera County, and concerns regarding re-introduction of Assembly Bill 6 (Friedman) and Assembly 7 (Friedman); and, Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, regarding low Medi-Cal reimbursements.

### **Appointment to Fill Executive Committee Region 3 Vacancy**

Patrick Blacklock 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 3.

RCRC Board Members from Region 3 convened to caucus and selected a representative to serve on the 2023 RCRC Executive Committee. Following the caucus, the RCRC Board of Directors reconvened and Region 3 reported the following selections for the 2023 Executive Committee:

Region 3: Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County

**Supervisor Kevin Goss, Plumas County, motioned to approve the appointment of Supervisor EJ Crandell, Lake County, to serve on the 2023 RCRC Executive Committee. Supervisor Lee Adams, Sierra County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:**

**Not Voting: Modoc County; Yuba County**

### **RCRC Resolution 23-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct**

Patrick Blacklock and Arthur J. Wylene, General Counsel, provided an overview of Resolution 23-02, the RCRC Board Code of Conduct.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the RCRC Board of Directors review and approve RCRC Resolution 23-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct.

**Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, motioned to approve the RCRC Resolution 23-02: Board of Directors Code of Conduct. Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:**

**Not Voting: Modoc County**

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

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, and Sheryl Cohen, Partner, American Continental Group, provided an update on issues being addressed at the state and federal level. At the state level, Ms. Warmerdam discussed the commencement of the 2023-24 Legislative Session and recent activities. Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, provided a brief update on BOF’s Fire Safe Regulations.

At the federal level, topics covered include the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and RCRC’s federal priorities, such as the Farm Bill reauthorization, rural broadband, forestry, energy, funding opportunities, cannabis banking, rural and recreation affordable housing, and recent California’s major disaster and emergency declarations.

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

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Sarah Dukett, Policy Advocate, Staci Heaton, and John Kennedy, Policy Advocate, provided an overview of the Governor’s 2023-24 proposed Budget and its implications for California’s rural counties. Supervisors were encouraged to review *RCRC’s Rural Rundown: Governor’s 2023-24 Proposed Budget*.

### **Water Issues Update**

Sidd Nag, Policy Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California water policy, including the Waters of the United States final rulemaking, Governor Newsom’s proposed new water spending, and water-related budget proposals as contained in the Governor’s 2023-24 Proposed Budget.

### **Drought and Water Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee**

Sidd Nag provided an update on the work of the Drought and Water Resiliency Ad Hoc Committee, including potential policy recommendations that will be implemented under existing Policy Principles, as well as inform future changes. Mr. Nag requested supervisors to review the policy recommendations and provide any feedback before adoption at the RCRC March Board of Directors meeting.

### **Adoption of RCRC's 2023-24 Policy Principles**

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an overview of the proposed RCRC 2023-24 Policy Principles, and explained that the December 2022 RCRC Board Packet contained the draft RCRC 2023-24 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 2023 RCRC Board Packet.

### **Staff Recommendation**

RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the draft 2023-24 Policy Principles as proposed, including the amendments and edits proposed by RCRC member counties and staff.

**Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the proposed 2023-24 Policy Principles. Supervisor Michael Kobseff, Siskiyou County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting "Aye," except:**

**"No": Lassen County**

**Not Voting: Madera County; Solano County; Yolo County**

### **Adjournment**

Chair, Supervisor Doug Teeter, Butte County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 12:27 p.m.