

**Rural County Representatives of California
Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, October 1, 2021 – 8:00 a.m.
The Portola Hotel and Spa at Monterey Bay
Two Portola Plaza
Monterey, CA 93940**

MINUTES

Call to Order, Determination of Quorum and Self Introductions

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, presided. Present were President and CEO Patrick Blacklock, General Counsel Arthur Wylene, and Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board Maggie Chui, clerk. Chair Corless called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time. Those present:

<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>County</u>
David Griffith	Alpine
Brian Oneto	Amador
Doug Teeter	Butte
Jack Garamendi	Calaveras
Denise Carter	Colusa
Gerry Hemmingsen	Del Norte
Lori Parlin	El Dorado
Paul Barr	Glenn
Rex Bohn	Humboldt
Matt Kingsley	Inyo
EJ Crandell	Lake
Aaron Albaugh	Lassen
Robert Poythress	Madera
Glenn McGourty	Mendocino
Daron McDaniel	Merced
Geri Byrne	Modoc
Stacy Corless	Mono
Chris Lopez	Monterey
Diane Dillon	Napa
Dan Miller	Nevada
Jim Holmes	Placer
Kevin Goss	Plumas
Bob Tiffany	San Benito
John Peschong	San Luis Obispo
Lee Adams	Sierra
Bob Williams	Tehama
Jeremy Brown	Trinity
Dennis Townsend	Tulare
Kathleen Haff	Tuolumne

Gary Bradford Yuba

Absent

Michael Kelley	Imperial
Miles Menetrey	Mariposa
Les Baugh	Shasta
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou
James Gore	Sonoma
Mat Conant	Sutter
Angel Barajas	Yolo

Pledge of Allegiance

Review and Approval of August 18, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, called for approval of the minutes from the August 18, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. Supervisor Dan Miller, Nevada County seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye.”

RCRC Chair’s Report

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, welcomed supervisors to the RCRC Board of Directors meeting in Monterey County. Supervisor Corless thanked everyone for attending the 2021 Annual Meeting, particularly sponsors who made the event a success. The 2021 Annual Meeting County Basket Auction & Drawing raised approximately \$55,000 for the charities Supervisor Corless selected, which include Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra/National Wounded Warrior Center, the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps, the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves, and the Mono Arts Council.

President’s Report

Patrick Blacklock, President and CEO, provided an update on the strategic planning process, the inaugural Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee, and the Golden State Connect Authority. Mr. Blacklock reminded interested RCRC Board Members to review the 2022 RCRC 2nd Vice Chair and Officer Election process, as well as to complete the communication survey. Mr. Blacklock discussed the desire by a California county interested in joining RCRC. Mr. Blacklock noted that the RCRC December Board of Directors Meeting will take place in Merced County on December 8-9, 2021.

Recent activities by the Governmental Affairs Department were highlighted, including: RCRC staff’s interview with Los Angeles Times’ article regarding coronavirus vaccination; the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Executive Director issuing a letter regarding Pacific Gas and Electric’s (PG&E) removal of felled wood; and, success in neutralizing Senate Bill 37 (Cortese) regarding the California Environmental Quality Act

(CEQA), and Senate Bill 264 (Min) regarding the prohibition of the sale of firearms on any state-owned property. As it relates to the 2021-22 State Budget Package, funding were provided for broadband, wildfire, fine and fee backfill, and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Lastly, Mr. Blacklock noted several members of the Legislature who recognized RCRC during the 2021 Legislative Session.

Guest Speaker – United States Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

Jennifer Eberlein, Regional Forester, United States Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, presented to the RCRC Board of Directors of its mission and goals to sustain the health and productivity of the Nation's forests. Following the presentation, supervisors and Ms. Eberlein engaged in a question and answer period. Supervisor Corless invited Ms. Eberlein to a future RCRC Board of Directors Meeting to provide an update.

Member County Concerns and Issues

Supervisor David Griffith, Alpine County, shared his concern about retaining and recruiting employees.

Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, spoke about vehicle miles traveled impact. Additionally, Supervisor Lopez discussed opportunities for counties to prepare fiscal impact statements on locally initiated ballot measures.

Supervisor Lori Parlin, El Dorado County, discussed her continued concern regarding a major online retailer's redistribution of sales and use tax and kick-back agreements with cities. Supervisor Parlin suggested RCRC to examine constitutional amendments to help rural counties.

Supervisor Aaron Albaugh, Lassen County, shared his concern of wildfires threatening communities and resources. Supervisor Albaugh proposed asking Governor Newsom to export burnt timber from these wildfires.

Supervisor Ned Coe, Modoc County, spoke about hiring external workers to assist with the forest. Subsequently, Supervisor Geri Byrne, Modoc County, shared that Modoc County has been successful in working with the Farm Bureau and obtaining Resource Advisory Committee funding. Supervisor Byrne remarked that county agricultural commissioners are hard to come by.

Supervisor Brian Oneto, Amador County, conveyed his concern about Assembly Bill 1346 (Berman), which would speed-up the adoption of regulations by the California Air Resources Board to prohibit engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new small off-road engines. The RCRC Governmental Affairs Department later noted that RCRC has been engaged on AB 1346 throughout the 2021 Legislative Session.

Public Comments

Mark Seigle, Global Security Systems/Alert FM, spoke about his company which offers emergency notification systems that deliver mass alerts to communities.

Randy Hanvelt, Associated California Loggers (ACL), shared activities the ACL is currently undertaking and upcoming events on behalf of those who handle materials for the forest products industry.

Connie Stewart, Humboldt State University, introduced Dawn Arledge who will be replacing her at the California Center for Rural Policy. Ms. Stewart also discussed recent issues she encountered with the California Department of Transportation.

California Public Utilities Commission Update

John Kennedy, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on RCRC's involvement at the CPUC. Mr. Kennedy announced CPUC President Marybel Batjer's plans to resign at the end of 2021.

Mr. Kennedy discussed RCRC's continued collaboration with the Joint Local Governments led by Napa County, Sonoma County, and the City of Santa Rosa to resolve PG&E's flawed "whack and stack" of post-wildfire felled wood on residential properties.

Mr. Kennedy also highlighted RCRC's involvement with counties affected by frequent, prolonged power outages triggered by sensitive mechanisms as a result of infrastructure improvements. Counties experiencing repeated unannounced outages were encouraged to communicate with their CPUC local liaison for assistance as well as inform RCRC.

Forest Management and Wildfire Update

Staci Heaton, Senior Regulatory Affairs Advocate, 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 shared that the RCRC Wildfire and Forest Stewardship Ad Hoc Committee held their first meeting on September 23rd with a conversation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Former Director Ken Pimlott.

Ms. Heaton discussed the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force's Executive Committee meeting whereby they specifically addressed RCRC member county concerns. Ms. Heaton also discussed the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Expenditure Plan which include \$200 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund annual permanent allocation through 2028-29, and allocates \$645 million to forest health and wildfire prevention programs.

Lastly, Ms. Heaton highlighted several wildfire and forestry legislation that were introduced during the 2021 Legislative Session, including Assembly Bill 9 (Wood), Senate Bill 45 (Portantino), and Senate Bill 396 (Dahle).

Drought & Water Issues Update

Sidd Nag, Legislative Advocate, provided an update on current issues involving California's drought and water policy. Mr. Nag discussed the Legislature's appropriation of over \$1 billion for water priorities, and over \$200 million for drought response. Mr. Nag provided an update on the State Water Resources Control Board's and the Department

of Water Resources' efforts as they continue to expand authorities to regulate local use pursuant to the Governor's emergency proclamation.

Lastly, Mr. Nag highlighted several key water bills that have passed the Legislature, and are now pending the Governor's consideration, including Assembly Bill 1434 (Friedman), Senate Bill 223 (Dodd), Senate Bill 323 (Caballero), Senate Bill 403 (Gonzalez), and Senate Bill 552 (Hertzberg).

Federal Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs, Sheryl Cohen, Partner, American Continental Group (ACG), and Max Seltzer, Associate, ACG, provided an update on issues being addressed at the federal level. An update was provided on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, reconciliation, emergency debt limit raise, Continuing Resolution, and emergency supplemental funding.

Mr. Seltzer highlighted RCRC's 2020/2021 successes as it relates to the American Rescue Plan, including: ensuring that formula was changed to allow for direct funding to counties; funding for state broadband infrastructure projects; funding for annual public lands program; and, extending the U.S. Treasury Department's reporting deadline for the American Rescue Plan's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for counties impacted by wildfires.

In 2022, ACG will work with RCRC to review congressional directed spending, Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations, 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization, 2020 Census and redistricting, and Fall 2022 elections.

State Legislative Update

Mary-Ann Warmerdam provided an update on issues being addressed at the state level. Ms. Warmerdam discussed the adjournment of the 2021 Legislative Session and the Governor's victory in the recall election.

Ms. Warmerdam noted funding provided for broadband, wildfire, fine and fee backfill, and SGMA through the State Budget Package; however, warned that funding at this level should not be expected in the future. Ms. Warmerdam highlighted key policy issues that RCRC will continue to work on during the second half of the 2021-22 Legislative Session, including: drought, cannabis, recycling/waste management with the Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority, CEQA, housing, and behavioral health. Future CPUC efforts, including reviewing RCRC resources to seek external counsel, was also discussed.

Sarah Dukett, Legislative Advocate, discussed the following legislation: Assembly Bill 177 (Assembly Budget Committee) regarding public safety; Senate Bill 270 (Durazo) regarding public employment; Senate Bill 278 (Leyva) regarding public employee retirement system; and, Senate Bill 594 (Glazer) regarding elections redistricting.

Broadband Legislative Update

Tracy Rhine, Senior Legislative Advocate, presented on state legislative action taken during the 2021 Legislative Session related to broadband infrastructure, deployment, and access. Ms. Rhine noted the three types of broadband-related legislation, which are: infrastructure funding, California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) revisions, and facility permit streamlining. As it relates to infrastructure funding, Ms. Rhine noted the passage of Senate Bill 156 (Chapter 112, 2021) and Assembly Bill 164 (Chapter 84, 2021). As it relates to CASF revisions, Assembly Bill 14 (Aguiar-Curry) and Senate Bill 4 (Gonzalez) are awaiting consideration by the Governor. Ms. Rhine noted that CASF revisions are considered wins for local governments. As it relates to facility permit streamlining, Assembly Bill 537 (Quirk), Senate Bill 378 (Gonzalez), and Senate Bill 556 (Dodd) are awaiting consideration by the Governor. RCRC is supportive of AB 14 and SB 4; however, RCRC is in opposition of SB 556, which would remove local discretion on siting of small wireless facilities.

As it relates to the State Budget Package, Ms. Rhine highlighted the appropriation of \$6 billion over the next three years to bridge the digital divide, including funding for a state-owned middle mile, local government technical assistance grants, last mile funding, and a loan loss reserve account.

Adoption of the 2022 RCRC Meeting Schedule

Maggie Chui, Senior Governmental Affairs Coordinator/Clerk of the Board, presented the 2022 RCRC meeting schedule for adoption by the RCRC Board of Directors.

In June 2022, the RCRC Board of Directors is scheduled to travel to Nevada County, the 2022 County of the Chair, for a 2-day meeting. In September 2022, the RCRC Annual Meeting will be held in Napa County.

Staff Recommendation

RCRC staff recommended that the RCRC Board of Directors approve the 2022 RCRC Meeting schedule as proposed.

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Humboldt County, motioned to approve the adoption of the 2022 RCRC meeting schedule. Supervisor Chris Lopez, Monterey County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all Supervisors present voting “Aye,” except as follows:

Not Voting: Madera County; Merced County; Tehama County

Adjournment

Chair, Supervisor Stacy Corless, Mono County, adjourned the RCRC Board of Directors Meeting at 11:51 a.m.